



May 10th, 2023

To: the Chairperson (Councillor A McIntyre), Vice-Chairperson (Councillor A Gowan) and Members of the Leisure & Community Development Committee

Ex Officio:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor S Carson)

Deputy Mayor (Councillor M Guy)

Notice Of Meeting

A meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee will be held on Tuesday, 7th February 2023 at 6:00 pm for the transaction of the undernoted Agenda.

For those Members attending this meeting remotely, the Zoom link and passcodes are contained within the Outlook invitation that has been issued.

David Burns

Chief Executive

Agenda

1.0 APOLOGIES

2.0 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- (i) Conflict of Interest on any matter before the meeting (Members to confirm the specific item)
- (ii) Pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest (Member to complete the Disclosure of Interest form)

3.0 REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

3.1 Education Authority Northern Ireland (EANI) - Matter Raised at Council by Councillor McCready

[Education Authority Northern Ireland - Cllr McCready.pdf](#) Page 1

4.0 REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

4.1 PCSP Minutes

[Item 1 PCSP Minutes.pdf](#) Page 4

[Appendix 1 PCSP 151122 Sp Private.pdf](#) Page 7

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4.2 Good Relations Draft Action Plan

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[Appendix GR Progress Update 22.23.pdf](#) Page 17

[Appendix Draft Action Plan 23.24.pdf](#) Page 22

4.3 Support Programme Funding

[Request for delegated authority to award Support Programme bf.pdf](#) Page 63

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5.0 REPORT OF HEAD OF PARKS & AMENITIES

5.1 Open Spaces (Green) Strategy 2022/26

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5.3	Lisburn Royal Black District Demonstration	
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5.4	Request to Set Aside Byelaws	
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5.5	Tree and Woodland Strategy	
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6.0 REPORT OF HEAD OF SPORTS SERVICES

6.1	Vitality - Independent Evaluation	
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7.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - NON-CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

8.0 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

8.1 Pilot Acquisition and Disposal - Consideration of Pitches	
<i>Acquisition Disposal of Pilot Pitches .pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
8.2 Automatic Irrigation Systems for Bowling Greens	
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8.4 Wallace Park - Modular Viewing Gallery	
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8.5 Annual Capital Fleet Replacement	
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8.6 Hydebank Pavilion - Refurbishment	
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<i>Appendix Financial Appraisal Hydebank.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
<i>Appendix - Schedule of Repairs Hydebank.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
8.7 Belfast International Sports Club Tenure	
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8.8 Additional Item - Department for Communities: Financial Assistance	
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9.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS



Leisure & Community Development Committee

7 February 2023

Report from:

Director of Leisure & Community Development

Item for Decision

TITLE: Education Authority Northern Ireland (EANI) – Matter raised at Council by Councillor C McCready

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. At the meeting of the Council on 19th December, under 'any other business', Councillor C McCready reported that he had been approached by a group from within the Moira area to express concern that its funding from the EANI would be cut significantly in 2023/24 and the two years thereafter. He referred to the vital community work carried out by this group and the impact that the reduction in funding would have on its work. He therefore proposed that the Council write to the EANI to request clarity on the grading used by the organisation in assessing funding applications. That proposal was seconded by Councillor N Anderson.
2. During discussion, Alderman S Martin pointed out that, given that matters relating to education across the district fell under the Leisure and Community Development Committee, as part of its Community Planning remit, it would be preferable that the issue be referred initially to that Committee for consideration. Accordingly, Councillor C McCready concurred to this course of action and the Chairman, Councillor McIntyre, agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for this meeting.
3. The funding referred to by Councillor C McCready is the Education Authority's open call for the delivery of core youth delivery, in this instance, in the Moira area.

Recommendation:

The Committee is requested to consider Councillor McCready’s request and take such action as may be determined. An invitation to address the Committee has been extended to Councillor McCready.

Finance and Resource Implications

N/A

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy?

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>
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If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:



Leisure & Community Development Committee

7 February 2023

Report from:

Head of Communities

Item for Noting

TITLE: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Policing & Community Safety Partnership
Minutes of Meetings

Background and Key Issues:

1. The minutes of meetings of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Policing & Community Safety Partnership (Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP) are presented to the Leisure & Community Development Committee for noting following their adoption by the PCSP.
2. The minutes of the following meetings of the Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP are presented for noting:
 - Special Private Meeting held on 15 November 2022
 - Policing Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2022

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the minutes of the meetings of the Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP held on 15 November 2022 are noted.

Finance and Resource Implications:

None

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy?

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

Not applicable

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
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If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

Not applicable

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

3. Environmental & Sustainability Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to environmental impact?	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Has an Environmental & Sustainability Screening been completed?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
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If no, please provide explanation/rationale:

Not applicable

If yes, please summarise the outcome of the E&S screening:

Please provide a link to the E&S screening and to any other relevant attachments:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

Minutes of the Special Private Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP held on 15 November 2022

Minutes of the Policing Committee held on 15 November 2022

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:

PCSP 15 11 2022

7

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the Private Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in LVI on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 6.00pm****PRESENT**

Councillor J Gallen (Chairman)
 Alderman A Ewing
 Councillor N Anderson (via Zoom)
 Councillor R Carlin (via Zoom)
 Councillor A Gowan
 Councillor M Guy (via Zoom)
 Councillor John Palmer (via Zoom)
 Councillor A McIntyre (via Zoom)
 Councillor S Skillen (via Zoom)
 Mr J Bentley
 Ms G Conroy
 Mrs Y Craig (via Zoom)
 Mr P Dean
 Mr D McBurney
 Ms P Leeson
 Ms A Playford
 Mrs P Yellamaty (via Zoom)

IN ATTENDANCE

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
 PCSP Support Officers (SA and JB)
 Member Services Officers (BF and EW)

Designated Organisations
 Superintendent J Mullan, PSNI
 Chief Inspector I McCormick, PSNI

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillor H Legge and Ms A Landa, together with the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Mr D McBurney, seconded by Mr J Bentley, and agreed that the Partnership approve the minutes of the private and public meetings of 21st June, together with the minutes of the meeting of the Policing Committee of 16th August, and the public meeting of 19th October.

4.1 Report of the Acting PCSP Manager

(In the absence of the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager, Mr J Bingham, Partnership Officer, presented the report).

4.1.1 Participatory Budget (Grand Choice)

The Partnership noted an update which related to the Lisburn South DEA Grand Choice participatory budgeting event, which took place on 22nd October, at Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Lisburn. The event had been well-supported by the local community with a total of 626 persons voting on the various initiatives, with 16 projects awarded funding as set out below:

VOTES	GROUP	AMOUNT
354	Ballymacash Meals on Wheels	£1,000
335	Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid	£1,000
318	The Hygiene Bank	£1,000
317	Laurel Hill PTA	£425
310	Lisburn YMCA	£1,000
293	Ballymacash Community Group	£1,000
286	The Sub Trinity Methodist Church	£1,000
280	South Eastern Area Domestic & Sexual Violence Partnership	£910
280	Lisburn Voluntary Welfare Group	£1,000
261	Ballymacash Rangers Youth FC	£1,000
248	Sew Ready	£1,000
240	Ballymacash Regeneration Network	£890
227	Resurgam Youth Initiative	£1,000
227	Old Warren PS PTA	£1,000
220	Ballymacash Playgroup	£1,000
216	Old Warren Primary School	£780
	Total amount awarded	£15,005

4.1.2 Downshire East and Lisburn North

The Partnership agreed that the Downshire East Grand Choice event would take place on 14th January, 2023 from 11am to 3pm in Legacurry Presbyterian Church Hall. It was noted that the Lisburn North DEA event would take place on 18th February at a venue as yet to be agreed.

4.1.3 Road Safety Sub-Group

Mr Bingham referred to a report which updated the Partnership on the meeting of the Road Safety Sub-Group, which had taken place on 11th November. He reported that the Sub-Group had reviewed 22 of the existing sites and had agreed that sites with breaches of 50% or less would be assessed for relocation. It was agreed further that sites close to buildings deemed to be vulnerable, that being, schools or homes for older persons, and sites with the 20mph speed limits, would be deemed as having a higher requirement for retention.

Accordingly, six existing sites had been identified and agreed for relocation i.e., those at Ballygowan Road, Belsize Road, Kesh Road, Ballyskeagh Road, Culcavy Road and the Lisburn Road at Glenavy – and the Partnership Officer outlined the recommendations and the rationale for the changes. He tabled a report in this regard, copies of which were circulated to Members.

After discussion, the Partnership noted the changes to the location of the devices.

4.1.4 PSNI Problem Solving Awards

The Partnership noted that the PSNI Lisburn Neighbourhood Patrol Team had been successful in the 2022 PSNI Problem Solving Awards for a project which sought to tackle antisocial behaviour in Lisburn city centre. The Chairman, on behalf of the Partnership, extended congratulations to those officers involved in the project and the representatives of the various agencies who had assisted the PSNI.

4.1.5 City Watch

The Partnership noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the work of City Watch over the July period.

4.1.6 Probation Board for Northern Ireland

The Partnership noted and endorsed the contents of a consultation response which had been submitted to the Probation Board for Northern Ireland in respect of the contents of its Corporate Plan for 2023/26.

4.1.7 Applications for Funding under £500

The Partnership approved the undernoted funding applications.

Group	Project	Amount Requested
PSNI	Engagement event for Lisburn City NPT and Ballymacash community family day event – 11 July 2022	£500
PSNI	Engagement event with LCCC Parks & Amenities to develop relationships with ethnic minorities at three mini melas at Wallace Park, Lisburn & Moira Demesne on the 30 July and Moat Park, Dundonald on the 6 August.	£500
PSNI	Engagement event for Dundonald NPT and Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church Young Persons at Game Locker Inspire Business park	£200
PSNI	Engagement event for Dundonald NPT and Newtownbreda Baptist Church Young Persons at Game Locker Inspire Business Park	£400
PSNI	Crime Prevention engagement event with Ballybeen Woman's Centre	£70
PSNI	Community Events Moneyreagh – Moneyreagh Community Church	£250
Lisburn Welfare Group	Pensioners group engaging with PCSP & PSNI to raise awareness of scams for their members	£500
PSNI	Engagement event with Lisburn BMX Club	£500
PSNI	Multi Agency Support Hub Suicide Awareness event in partnership with LCC Community Trust – September 2022	£500
Hilltop Friends	Pensioners group engaging with PCSP & PSNI to raise awareness of scams for their members	£260

PCSP 15 11 2022

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Hillsborough LOL 288	Community Awareness & Defib Training for Hillsborough Village	£500
Carryduff Taekwondo Club	Awareness training in partnership with Atlas Women`s Centre on self-defence for females	£500
PSNI	Engagement Event in Partnership with NIHE & Tonagh Neighbourhood Initiative – Halloween Diversionary project	£500
PSNI	Road Safety Project with Little Rays Nursey	£412.50
PSNI	Partnership project with Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church in addressing ASB	£500
PSNI	Partnership project with Seymour Hill & Conway Association in providing diversionary activity to reduce ASB	£485
Royal Black District Chapter No 1	Provide Marshall Training to its members to support PSNI in parading issues across Lisburn City	£500
Lisburn Advanced Motorcyclists	Road Safety Project for its members	£425

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 18:34.

Chairman

PCSP (Policing) 15 11 2022

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LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the Meeting of the Policing Committee of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in the Council Chamber and via Zoom on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 6.30 pm****PRESENT**

Councillor J Gallen (Chairman)
 Alderman A Ewing
 Councillor N Anderson (Zoom)
 Councillor R Carlin (Zoom)
 Councillor A Gowan (Zoom)
 Councillor M Guy (Zoom)
 Councillor John Palmer (Zoom)
 Councillor A McIntyre (Zoom)
 Councillor S Skillen (Zoom)
 Mr J Bentley
 Ms G Conroy
 Mrs Y Craig (Zoom)
 Mr P Dean
 Mr D McBurney
 Ms P Leeson
 Ms A Playford
 Mrs P Yellamaty (Zoom)

ALSO ATTENDED:

The Worshipful Mayor, Councillor S Carson
 Alderman S Martin
 Councillor A Swan
 Councillor U Mackin

IN ATTENDANCE:

PCSP Support Officers (SA and JB)
 Member Services Officers (BF & EW)

Designated Organisations
 Superintendent J Mullan, PSNI
 Chief Inspector I McCormick, PSNI

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairman, Councillor J Gallen, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor H Legge, Ms A Landa and the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PCSP (Policing) 15 11 2022

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3. Quarter 2 PSNI Report on Policing of the District

A number of Members welcomed the revised format of the report, which was based on an outcomes-based accountability.

Burglary

Superintendent J Mullan reported that burglaries – which included robberies – had reduced by 52.7%, which equated to 39 fewer burglaries when compared to the same period last year. Residential burglaries had fallen by 55.55%, which represented a drop of 30 burglaries. However, 'cold calling' remained a problem and was priority for the PSNI across the district and eighteen 'No Cold Calling' zones now existed across the Council area, with 105 neighbour watch schemes in existence, representing 255 co-ordinators and 9,500 homes across the district. During the period there has been a 42.86% decrease in burglaries in over 60 age bracket and residential burglaries were down by 55.5%, with a decrease in commercial burglaries of 56.25%.

Managing Offenders

It was reported that during the second quarter, the Repeat Offender Unit had managed seven priority offenders. The Superintendent outlined the work which was undertaken on a multi-agency basis to address repeat offending across the district.

Drug Offences

In the second quarter, there had been 212 drug seizures, which represented an increase of 30.06%. Seizures of cannabis remained the most common drug uncovered and neighbourhood officers continued to make use of social media to engage with young people and other members of the public leading to intelligence submissions.

Police sought also to maintain high-visibility vehicle and foot patrols at hotspot areas and sought to deal with first-time offenders through non-criminal justice solutions by issuing community resolution notices and referral onwards drugs awareness courses. Police had searched 360 people had been stopped and searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act and 22 house searches had been carried out during the quarter.

In response to a query regarding the prevalence of heroin usage in the Council district, the Superintendent indicated that there had been no apparent increase, but that officers would remain vigilant in this regard. The Partnership discussed also the extent and influence of paramilitaries in the selling of drugs across the district.

Domestic Violence/Hate Crime

Across the district, there had been a reduction of 45 (9.32%) of reported incidents of domestic violence. Overall, the financial year had seen a decrease of 87 recorded offences which was reduction of 23.39%. There had been a 14.71% increase in overall hate crime incidents in the quarter compared to the same period last year but have seen a reduction in faith/religious, homophobic and racist offences with no change in transphobic incidents.

Antisocial Behaviour

Tackling anti-social behaviour remained a priority across the district in partnership with other statutory and voluntary agencies recognising that collective and community-based solutions were preferable. The Superintendent highlighted a number of successful case studies, such as measures which had been introduced to address antisocial behaviour in the Barnfield Road, Roselawn Cemetery and Moira Demesne.

The PSNI's social media messaging remained focused on anti-social behaviour and sought to address areas where a spike in cases had been recorded. Such messaging focused on the work of colleagues in the neighbourhood teams and what they were doing to tackle ASB in the local community.

Further to the above, Councillor S Skillen referred to a recent incident of antisocial behaviour which had occurred in the Dundonald area and, in response, Mr S Addley, Partnership Officer, indicated that the matter had been brought to his attention and that officers in Dundonald were pursuing enquiries.

It was noted that during the 12th of July period the parades in the district took place without incident and the period had been described as the most peaceful in recent times. With the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the PSNI participated in Operation Shamrock, which oversaw the response across the district to the monarch's death and the ceremonial occasions which took place in Royal Hillsborough.

The Worshipful Mayor, Councillor S Carson, paid tribute to the PSNI for their work in supporting the delivery of Operation Shamrock and the assistance, in particular, offered to the Council by Sergeant Garry King.

On behalf of the Partnership, the Chairman thanked Superintendent J Mullan and Chief Inspector I McCormick for their attendance.

The Partnership noted the information provided within the report.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.33 pm.

Chairman



Leisure and Community Development Committee

7th February 2023

Report from:

Head of Communities

Item for Decision

TITLE: Draft Good Relations Action Plan 2023-24

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. The District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP), is delivered as part of the Executive's wider 'Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC)' Strategy. The key aims of the programme are to improve relations between and within District Council areas and to support local solutions to local good relations issues.
2. Each council programme must be linked to at least one of the key themes of the T:BUC Strategy which includes:
 - Our Children and Young People
 - Our Shared Community
 - Our Safe Community
 - Our Cultural Expression
3. In December 2022, a Commissioning Letter from The Executive Office was received inviting Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to apply for funding for the financial year 2023/24, conditional on the submission of a Good Relations Action Plan. This is based on a

commitment from The Executive Office of 75% towards the costs of the programme with each local Council match funding the remaining 25%.

GR Action Plan 2022/23 – Progress to date

4. In order to formulate the Action Plan for the forthcoming year, intensive review of the 2022/23 Action Plan was undertaken and attached at **Appendix 3**, taking into consideration performance measures in addition to participant consultation. Reference and consideration was also given to the current Good Relations Strategy for 2022-2025.
5. The consultation and research highlighted the following needs from the community:
 - Need to support young people to become leaders of civic life;
 - Delivering diverse cultural celebrations
 - Opportunities for new and existing communities to link together and build relationships
 - Programmes to increase education and awareness of minority groups within communities

There are 11 programmes as part of the draft 2023-2024 Good Relations Action Plan, which is attached at **Appendix 4** with an associated budget which includes:

Programme	Amount
Good Relations Grant Funding:	
- Good Relations & Cultural Identity Grant (£30,000)	£34,000
- Good Relations Reactionary Fund (£4,000)	
Youth Council Leadership Programme:	£10,000
Our Culture & Heritage - Museum Programme	£14,000
Our Shared Goal – Good Relations & Sports	£5,000
GRow - Good Relations & the Outdoors	£4,000
Cultural Celebrations Programme	£9,000
Learning through Creativity	£5,000
Safe Communities	£4,000
DEA Initiatives (£2,000 per DEA)	£14,000
Community Integration	£4,000
Good Relations Steering Group	-

6. The revised Action Plan takes into consideration opportunities to work across departments within the Council to include co-design with Community Planning, PEACE PLUS, PCSP, Community Arts and Irish Linen Centre & Linen Museum to ensure complementarity in the development of programmes and activities.
7. Notable key changes within the plan include the provision for increased programme delivery for engagement within the community to address issues such as isolation, encouraging residents to get outdoors, promotion of equality and relationship building, extended schedule of cultural celebrations and the continuation of funding available for the community through the reactionary fund to ensure emerging issues can be supported through Good Relations.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the draft Good Relations Action Plan 2023/24 and associated budget is approved for submission to The Executive Office.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Provision has been made within 2023/24 estimates.

	100%	75% TEO Contribution	25% LCCC Contribution
Total cost	£170,782.00	£128,086.50	£42,695.50

Screening:

Equality and Good Relations

Yes

Environmental Impact Assessment

No

Rural Impact Assessment

No

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

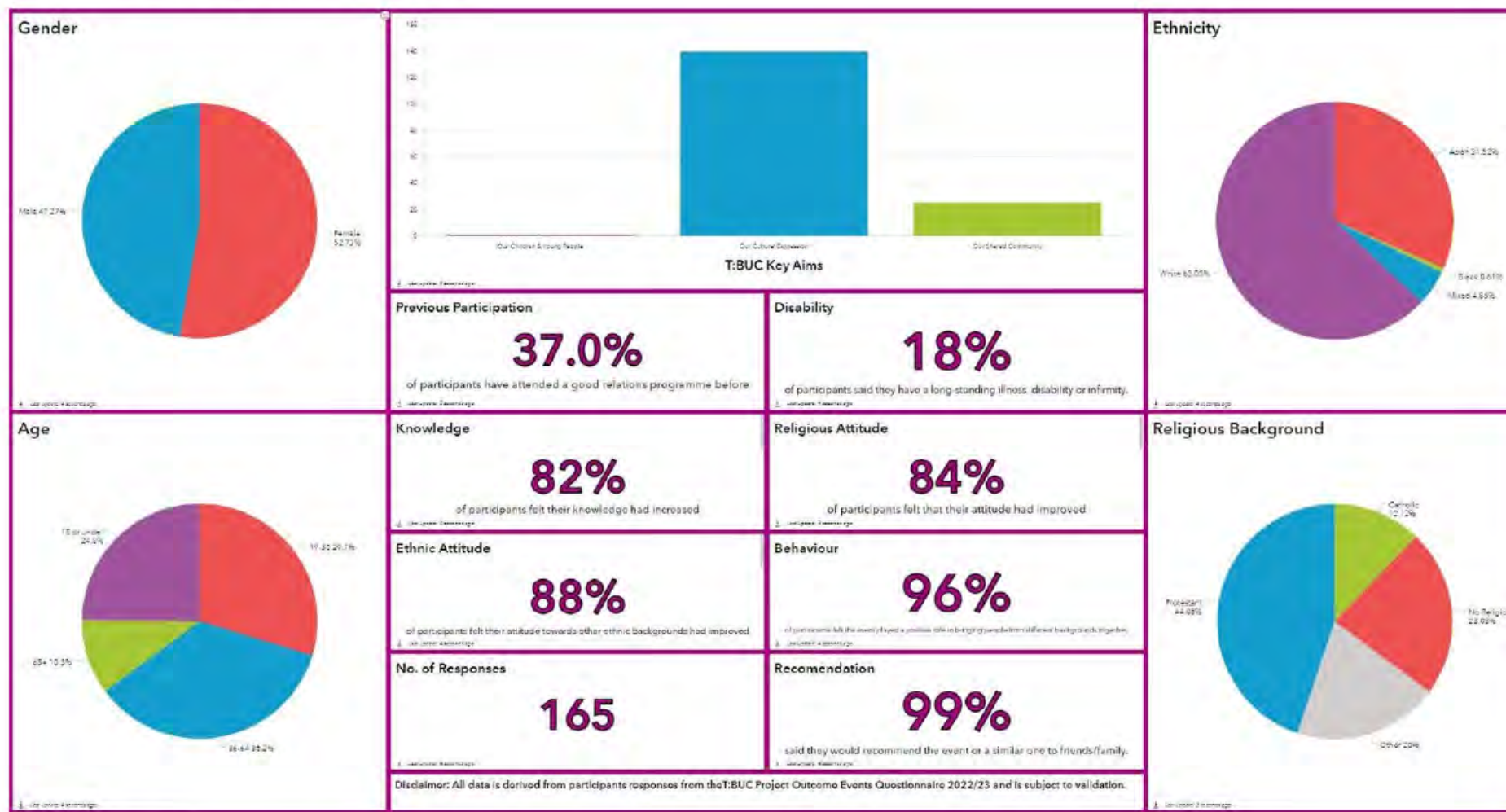
Appendix 3 - Good Relations Progress Report 2022/23
Appendix 4 – Good Relations Draft Action Plan

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:

Good Relations Progress Report 2022/23





<u>Code</u>	<u>Programme Title</u>	<u>Progress</u>
LCCC1	Youth Council Leadership & Development	<p>24 members have been elected to serve a two year term.</p> <p>Good Relations contribution to this programme enables the delivery and development of a varied programme which will enhance the lives of the recruits from the council area.</p> <p>Members from the Youth Council are planned to engage in an intergenerational programme with older residents to bring forward the T:BUC Tree programme in early 2023.</p>
LCCC2	Embracing Diversity through Sports and Arts	<p>A package is being delivered to four local primary schools based on a Health and Wellbeing After School Programme that includes physical and emotional wellbeing. This will culminate in a Celebration Colour Run event encompassing all participants to come together.</p> <p>Primary schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisburn Central PS • Tonagh PS • Cairnshill PS • St Josephs PS <p>32 sessions have been delivered in total, with the expected colour run to finalise the programme.</p> <p>An extension to this programme has resulted in a summer programme of weekly sessions being held for a period of 6 weeks engaging with an additional 35 young people from the council area.</p> <p>An agreed programme in collaboration with the Community Arts Development unit has been established to offer support to local LGBTQ+ Organisations which is anticipate to be delivered in early 2023.</p>
LCCC3	Youth Leadership and diversity training programme	<p>This has been facilitated through the programme development of LCCC1 – Youth Council. Training and implementation will be issued in September and will continue throughout the financial year.</p>

LCCC4	Confidently Me	Delivery of promotion of mutual respect and understanding among young people within the council area is currently being developed.
LCCC5	Intergenerational activity programme	This Intergenerational programme is in the process of being developed which will result in a final event linking with the T:BUC trees planning initiative. Identification of delivery participants has been completed with a local Men's Shed and Youth Council having been recruited. The workshops and final T: BUC Tree planting event is scheduled to take place early 2023 at Bells Lane Allotments.
LCCC6	Grant Aid/community/funding	<p>14 local community organisation have been awarded grant funding to deliver a Good Relations Programme. Ongoing support is being offered with each recipient group to ensure delivery and expenditure are in line with the grant scheme requirements.</p> <p>5 reactionary fund applications (£500 each) have been received since April 2022 covering a vast range of emerging needs. This new element of the Good Relations Action Plan has permitted smaller issues to be supported as and when they arise.</p>
LCCC7	Explore & Engage - Community Animation Programme	<p>This project was aimed at bringing cultural awareness to each DEA through a variety of methods.</p> <p>3 Mini Mela's have been delivered, in partnership with Parks & Amenities in Downshire West, Lisburn North & Castlereagh East.</p> <p>Ongoing consultations are being developed with identification of further activities in relation to the remaining DEA's.</p>
LCCC8	Integrate & Embrace	Ongoing consultations with BME Organisations have taken place to develop further relationships with the priority of co-designing a programme to accurately address the needs of the participants identified.
LCCC9	LCCC Good Relations Steering Group	Development and implementation of a cross-departmental steering group of relevant officers to develop and enhance the delivery benefits of Good Relations across all council programmes.
LCCC10	Combating Hate Crime	Good Relations & PCSP collaboratively supported a Diwali – The Festival of Lights celebration event delivered through the Intercultural Friendship Group.

LCCC11	Cultural Celebrations Programme	<p>Cultural Diversity Day was held on 21st May 2022 – In partnership with PCSP. The event included Small Worlds workshop, Hate Crime awareness with the PSNI and a cultural dance demonstration.</p> <p>Refugee week 20th June 2022 – Launch of Refugee Week in partnership with The Welcome Project & LCC Community Trust.</p> <p>Ulster Scots Week progressed with a delivery of cookery workshops and information talks with local schools.</p> <p>Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 is continuing to be developed.</p> <p>Preparations for delivery of programme for Irish Language Week are being progressed</p>
LCCC12	Our people, our shared history & our current experience	This Good Relations funded contribution to the ongoing delivery of the ILMC programme is ongoing.



DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME

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District Council: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive Officer: Mr David Burns



DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME
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Please read the guidance notes provided before completing the action plan.

Section 1

1.1 Programme information

Number of programmes	11
Name/role/contact details of all staff responsible for programme management	<p>Deirdre Russell Community Development and Resources Manager Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street, Lisburn, BT28 1XP Deirdre.Russell@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk</p> <p>Victoria Jackson Acting Community Support Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street, Lisburn, BT28 1XP Victoria.jackson@lisburncastlereah.gov.uk</p> <p>Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk</p> <p>John Beattie Administrative Assistant Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP John.Beattie@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk</p>

1.2 Financial information

Name/contact details for staff responsible for financial management of programme	<p>All staff detailed above:</p> <p>Angela McCann Head of Communities Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island Lisburn, BT27 4RL angela.mccann@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk</p>
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DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME
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	100%	75%
Total cost	£170,782.00	£128,086.50
Total programme costs	£103,000.00	£77,250.00
Total staff costs	£67,782.00	£50,836.50

1.3 Claim deadlines

It is extremely important that all claims for expenditure are made promptly and that full expenditure is claimed for within six weeks of the end of the financial year. The claim deadlines for 23/24 are as follows:

- Quarter 1 to be with TEO no later than end of July 2023
- Quarter 2 to be with TEO no later than end of October 2023
- Quarter 3 to be with TEO no later than the end of January 2024
- Quarter 4 to be with TEO no later than 11th June 2024

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Section 2

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Good Relations Grant Funding	LCC1
2.03 KEY WORDS	Sin-ID, Diverse, Rural, Urban
2.04 Programme Summary	<p><u>Good Relations & Cultural Diversity Grant</u> <u>£30,000</u></p> <p>The Grant Scheme has previously been a successful element to the action plan whereby community organisations are given financial support to deliver Good Relations focused programme to directly address the needs in their local areas.</p> <p>The Grant Scheme is open to constituted community & voluntary sector organisations offering financial assistance of up to £3,000 with the aim of supporting the delivery of projects focused on promoting good relations between people of different religion, ethnic, religious or political backgrounds. Applications must clearly link with one (or more) T:BUC key themes.</p> <p>Successful projects will be delivered between 1st April 2023 – 29th February 2024, permitting sufficient time for claims to be received and processed by officers.</p> <p>In order to maximise awareness regarding the open call, the Good Relations team will facilitate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 grant workshops to provide support and assistance with queries relating to the application process, developing a project and to encourage projects that promote good relations. • The promotion of the grant scheme through social media, E-Zines, email campaigns and through external organisations • One-to-one support for groups located in areas with previously low rates of submission. <p>Following the closure of the grant scheme, all applicants will be assessed by a relevant panel of council officers with a final report of recommendations being taken to the Leisure and Community Development Committee for consideration.</p>

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	<p>Successful applicants will be provided with 75% of award in advance of the delivery of the programme with the subsequent 25% being drawn down following successful submission and approval of all associated claims and monitoring. In addition, successful applicants will be invited to a workshop, led by the Good Relations Officer, to offer support and guidance regarding the monitoring and evaluation requirements. It is hoped that this measure will encourage a strong response rate of OBA returns.</p> <p><u>Good Relations Reactionary Fund - £4,000</u></p> <p>Following the success of the newly implemented GR Reactionary Fund in 2022/23, the intention is to offer this funding stream as an avenue to address emerging and new issues which may benefit from low level interventions and financial support.</p> <p>This fund is a rolling programme whereby organisations can seek financial support of a maximum of £500 throughout the April – March period. The aim of this funding stream is to offer support to smaller, grass roots organisations who may identify a short-term good relations issue that requires small level financial assistance. Applicants of this funding element are required to complete a short application form focused on outlining the good relations issue, providing a budget and detailing a solution-focused approach that will be taken to address issues identified.</p> <p>All expenditure involved in this scheme must be completed by 31st March 2024. Any successful applicants will be supported throughout the project lifespan and mentored to ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation takes place.</p>
<p>2.05 Contact details for programme staff</p>	<p>Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713</p>
<p>2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)</p>	<p>£34,000</p>

DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME
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2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	1400	Indirect	3000
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£24.29			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Shared Community			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	<p>The 2022-25 Good Relations Audit identified that 33.3% of respondents highlighted the lack of funding for community-led good relations activities had a significant barrier to further developing better Good Relations within the Council area. The audit also highlighted the need to offer funding for community programmes in order to ensure new audiences are engaged through their local communities which will secure increased participation and direct benefits of the overall programme.</p> <p>The 2022/23 development of the reactionary fund is directly linked to the audit, highlighted on p33, in which respondents indicated the importance of flexibility of funding being available to address emerging needs at a community level.</p>			
2.14 Complementarity	Community Planning PCSP Community Services			
2.15 Capacity Building	The grant programme offers the opportunity for community partners to take ownership of designing, implementing and delivering good relations based programmes to directly address issues at a local level. In addition, by enabling community & voluntary organisations to have ownership of their programme, it is envisaged that there will be a greater level of participation which will maximise the beneficiaries of the overall projects.			

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2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Youth Council Leadership Programme	LCCC2
2.03 KEY WORDS	Youth / Diverse / Skills / Employ
2.04 Programme Summary	<p>A Partnership Agreement will be established between the Education Authority and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to provide an open call recruitment process with the intention of appointing 24 young people as members onto the Youth Council for a two-year term. It is the aim to include youth representation across each of the 7 DEA's to ensure spread of opportunities across the council area and to encourage development of relationships.</p> <p>Following the appointment of the members, they will work collaboratively to identify the priorities which will be used to shape their annual action plan. This action plan will include regular meetings of the Youth Council to drive forward social action initiatives led by the young people, offer teambuilding and personal development opportunities. Best Practice visits will be arranged with other regional and national youth councils to enable shared learning to take place. Regular engagement with key civic structures will be facilitated to encourage and develop the civic leadership amongst the members. Training and capacity building programmes will be delivered with a focus on enhancing the leadership and good relations awareness across the membership.</p> <p>The function of the Youth Council will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting civic participation of local young people; • Developing skills, knowledge and awareness of members to engage with other young people, policy and decision makers and promote the views of young people within the council area; • Enhancing the confidence of the membership to partake in consultation as a voice for young people and to represent with views of young people • Leading on the promotion of initiatives and opportunities relevant to young people

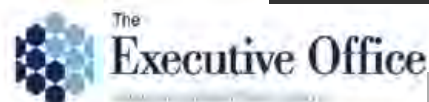
DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME
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	The continued development of the Youth Council will be undertaken by the development partnership consisting of Education Authority Youth Service, PSNI, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Planning Partnership, Community Services, PCSP, PEACE and Good Relations. The Good Relations team will attend and engage in the development partnership with the aim of further developing and monitoring the progress of the youth council, attending regular meetings and identifying potential good relations initiatives which could include participation from Youth Council members.			
2.05 Contact details for programme staff	Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713			
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£10,000			
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	60	Indirect	2400
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£166.67			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Children & Young People			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	Pg 27 – “There are few/no opportunities for young people to meet with others from different community backgrounds in addition to the lack of activities which offer an inclusive space for young people to interact” – This project provides financial assistance to the Youth Council which aims to develop a safe and inclusive space for young people, encouraging those from different backgrounds to engage with each other and develop peer support.			

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	<p>Pg 29 the further development of the Youth Council was supported as a means to ensure the programme was relevant to the younger generation and to enable the development of youth leaders.</p> <p>70.9% of consultees reported involving young people in community activities and building new friendships with others.</p>
<p>2.14 Complementarity</p>	<p>Community Planning Partnership PCSP Community Services Community Arts PEACEPLUS Education Authority Youth Service PSNI</p>
<p>2.15 Capacity Building</p>	<p>The Youth Council will provide the platform for young people to develop a stronger, unified voice in expressing the views and needs of young people within the council area, supporting these individuals to work collectively to promote and implement changes for the betterment of the younger population.</p> <p>The action plan for the youth council will improve the confidence of individuals, promote understanding of those from different backgrounds and improve the connectivity of young people across the council area.</p>

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2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Our Culture & Heritage	LCC3
2.03 KEY WORDS	Diverse / Shared / Sin-ID/
2.04 Programme Summary	<p>This programme will be delivered collaboratively between the Good Relations team and The Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum with a community education approach. This programme is developed with a person-centred practice which will be shaped by the participants in order to ensure each programme is developed with outcomes that are identified as having real value rather than developing and imitating programmes which are of no interest to the wider resident base. This is participant-based practice which enables the Museum to work with participants to develop programming an outcomes of real value to them rather than deciding in advance what participants want and working from there.</p> <p>Following consultation with community representatives, four projects have been identified to initiate the delivery of the programme.</p> <p><u>Flaxie Buds Bonanza</u> This family programme is an annually held event which takes place on the last Saturday of February and is a takeover day for under-fives and their families. It is the culmination of a child rights approach to developing young children's' cultural participation. The event attracts some 1200 visitors on the day and a further 400+ during the week leading up to what is now known as Flaxie's Birthday. The image of Flaxie (a mascot puppet design by children for children) is synonymous with the Museum building and offers a family friendly approach to encouraging participation in the Museum. Initiatives that will be delivered through this programme will include introducing younger children to different cultural traditions through art, talks and play. This activity takes an interactive approach to encourage families to learn about their own, and other traditions to create a better understanding and increase knowledge. The overall theme will create a safe space for participants to explore differences and the importance of good relations.</p> <p><u>My Community and Me</u></p>

	<p>This initiative is led by a local Men's Shed in the development and production of a "Photovoice" publication. This element of the programme will see local men working collaboratively with structured facilitation to identify, represent and promote their individual and collective views of their own community which will be then used to promote community-led initiatives across the wider community sector allowing for shared learning to take place. The objective of this programme is to enable participants to record and reflect on the strengths of their own community, from an individual perspective. Furthermore, the use of photographs will provide a space for dialogue to take place with individuals from other community and/or ethnic backgrounds regarding individual views of what their community means to them. This project is a pilot with the aim of it being further developed in subsequent years to include a wider participant base offering the opportunity for a longer term conversation to take place regarding individual perspectives of one's own community as well as having the space to increase knowledge and understanding of other cultures. This programme will be facilitated through a number of sessions, firstly through the delivery of brief training on photography followed by the collation of images and finally through an exhibition whereby participants will be given the opportunity to showcase their final publication and present this to other local communities.</p> <p><u>Veterans Voice</u></p> <p>A Good Relations contribution will be offered to support the development of a publication based on archived information and historical facts to record the viewpoints, experiences and attitudes from the perspective of local veterans and their families. It is expected that over 35 families will be engaged for this programme involving veterans, spouses, children and grandchildren. Lisburn area has strong military historical ties with members of the veteran community often feeling isolated from community involvement. This initiative has the overall objective to increase awareness, understanding and mutual respect for the experiences undertaken by such participants. By working with facilitators and members of the Museum team to formally record the perspectives, it</p>
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	<p>is the aim to share this learning with other members of the community. The overall aim is for the finalised publication to be showcased within a museum exhibition which can be accessed by local community groups, members of the public and organisations through workshops, talks and informal visits.</p> <p><u>Yours, Mine, Ours</u></p> <p>The development of a 'newcomer' programme whereby workshop sessions, talks and lectures will developed into a scheduled programme to increase awareness and understanding of a range of BAME cultures with a focus history, traditions and heritage of these cultures. This programme will invite BAME Communities to engage in the programme along with offering participation from the wider council area. This will be an opportunity to enhance accessibility and inclusivity of the museum premise to all communities to ensure it remains a shared space for all. Furthermore, we hope to develop this interactive programme to encourage residents from all backgrounds to engage, interact with one another and increase their learning of different cultures. The specific details of how this programme will be implemented will be shaped through consultation with identified potential participants.</p> <p>The overall aim of the entire programme is to encourage cultural inclusion and participation in the safe space of the Museum encouraging accessibility and ensuring the venue is identified as a safe and inclusive space for all. The outcomes include: the development of sustainable relationships with previous non-users, wider community involvement in museum events and contributions to knowledge for the benefit of future generations. This could be through various outputs of programming: contribution to archive and collections, exhibitions and publications.</p>
<p>2.05 Contact details for programme staff</p>	<p>Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk</p>

DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME
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	028 9244 7713			
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£14,000			
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	5000	Indirect	7500
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£2.80			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Shared Community			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	<p>Increasing awareness of different cultures and identities among the wider population and dispelling myths and misperceptions was raised as a priority by community consultees (p32). Consultees also expressed the need for positive cultural expression and increased understanding of culture and history, including the cultures of newcomer communities.</p> <p>59% of respondents to the on-line community survey considered education programmes for children to be a priority and 48% called for community exhibitions on culture and heritage (p46).</p>			
2.14 Complementarity	<p>Community Plan – assisting in creating a safe and welcoming community where diversity is celebrated.</p> <p>This programme will also complement the council's Museum Services existing strategy and development plan focused on promoting awareness of our shared heritage in addition to increasing educational opportunities on our shared and different history.</p>			
2.15 Capacity Building	This programme will focus on providing increased opportunities for participants to engage in educational projects to access wider information on the shared and different history of different			

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	communities within the council area. Each topic covered through this programme will encourage those from different backgrounds to come together, learn collectively and develop relationships with one another.
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2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Our Shared Goal	LCC4
2.03 KEY WORDS	Diverse / Shared / Youth
2.04 Programme Summary	<p>This programme will be an advancement of the sporting programme in previous years which focused on children and young people in school settings. To develop this further, the implementation of a cross community based programme involving the community / voluntary sector with a focus on enhancing good relations through sport, with the objective of encouraging the development of opportunities for increased dialogue and relationship building as well as positive mental and physical health.</p> <p>The programme will be delivered by initially liaising with the council's sports development team to develop particular details of the programme in collaboration with the Good Relations team. The overall aim is to facilitate increased learning of various sports whilst encouraging connectivity and interaction between young people. The programme will introduce participants to different types of sports through taster workshops with an opportunity at the end of each session for exploratory dialogue to take place regarding health & wellbeing, community relations, mutual respect and understanding and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>An end of programme 'come together' event will be arranged which will offer a wider cross community interaction for all participant through the facilitation of a colour run with the aim of bringing all participants together for a shared experience encouraging mutual understanding and respect.</p>

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	<p>The recruitment of participants will take place through an open call for community organisations and sports clubs to participate. Encouragement for those with additional needs to engage in the programme will be encouraged. The Good Relations Officer will work with local sporting organisations to identify ways to enhance community cohesion and mutual respect between their club members by providing community leaders and sports clubs with practical ideas and activities to promote good relations, health, wellbeing and inclusiveness through sport following the duration of the programme.</p> <p>This programme aims to bridge a gap in fulfilling sport and good relations as a means of promoting equity and fairness as well as equality, diversity and respect.</p>			
2.05 Contact details for programme staff	<p>Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713</p>			
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£5,000			
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	200	Indirect	1700
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£25			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	<p>60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion</p>			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Children and Young People			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	Community consultation identified the need for young people to have opportunities to meet others			

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	<p>from a different background through joint activity (p30) and (p42). Community consultation identified the need to address the increasing challenge of mental health issues and community isolation (P30). This was also identified as a priority via the online survey (p42). The benefits of sport types activities in building good relations was highlighted by community consultees however, they identified a need to root these activities in community structures (P30).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for enhanced cross community youth activities was identified as a high priority via the on-line survey (p42).
<p>2.14 Complementarity</p>	<p>The proposal for a youth sports programme supports the implementation of the LCCC Community Plan ensuring that young people have access to programmes to take part in play, recreation and sport based on collaboration.</p> <p>This project has the potential to complement the work of the Council Leisure Services team who actively deliver health and wellbeing programmes for local youth.</p>
<p>2.15 Capacity Building</p>	<p>It is envisaged that community groups / sports clubs involved in this programme will be brought together to explore all types of sports and arts that may be associated with one tradition or another on an ongoing basis, further deepening relationships and understanding of other backgrounds.</p>

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2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
GRow	LCC5
2.03 KEY WORDS	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Nature / Fac / Summer
2.04 Programme Summary	<p>This programme will be designed to develop on the progress made through the T:BUC trees initiative delivered during the 2022/23 action plan.</p> <p>The Good Relations Officer will work to identify community organisations who can come together to complete a programme designed around learning about new cultures, working collaboratively on a shared programme of nature-focused work with the final element of the programme consisting of planting greenery in their local area's to act, not only as a reflection opportunity but to also recognise the contribution and engagement into the programme.</p> <p>The programme plan will consist of a series of learning workshops to enable participants to learn from the experiences of others, creating an open and honest dialogue between participants and developing interpersonal relationships that will cross local areas and single identity communities.</p> <p>Participation on this project is aimed at promoting intergenerational engagement through the recruitment of older people's organisations in addition you younger people. This will provide the organic opportunity for conversations and information to be shared across generations to provide learning and discussions to take place.</p> <p>The objective of this programme is designed to provide all participants with the focus of caring for their environment whilst learning new skills. In addition to these objectives, participants will be encouraged to be outdoors, reduce isolation and improve their physical and mental health.</p> <p>Facilitation of the programme will be conducted through Good Relations, Parks & Amenities team</p>

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	along with a short celebration event at the end to promote the progress of the programme.			
2.05 Contact details for programme staff	Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713			
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£4,000			
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	80	Indirect	1200
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£50			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Shared Community			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation identified the need for young people to have opportunities to meet others from a different background through joint activity (p30) and (p42). Community consultation identified the need to address the increasing challenge of mental health issues and community isolation (P30). This was also identified as a priority via the online survey (p42). 			
2.14 Complementarity	Parks & Amenities Community Planning PCSP Community Services PHA EANI			

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<p>2.15 Capacity Building</p>	<p>All participants will have a greater opportunity to link with others on an intergenerational basis, learn about traditions, culture and heritage in addition to increasing their skills and knowledge regarding the outdoors and engaging in gardening.</p>
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2.01 PROGRAMME NAME		2.02 CODE	
Cultural Celebrations		LCC6	
2.03 KEY WORDS	Diverse / Rural / Urban /		
2.04 Programme Summary	<p>The Cultural celebrations programme builds on previous programmes with consideration being given to excluded and hard-to-reach groups within the council area. The programme has been designed to identify that all residents, regardless of background, is valued as a member of the council area and that individuals belong.</p> <p>The Good Relations team will initiate the delivery of this programme by mapping significant cultural/religious annual events for the cultures represented within the Council area and identify opportunities to recognise/highlight these through civic activities.</p> <p>A Cultural Celebrations Programme is expected to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holocaust Memorial Day, • Ulster Scots Leid Week, • Irish Language Week; • Diwali; • Good Relations Week; and • Cultural Diversity Day and any others which may arise as part of the consultation and mapping exercise. <p>The Good Relations team will consult with relevant key stakeholders to prioritise the initiatives which are to be delivered and ensure that the programme includes a range of recognised celebrations.</p>		
2.05 Contact details for programme staff	<p>Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713</p>		
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£9,000		
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	600	Indirect 1000

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2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£15			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Cultural Expression			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing awareness of different cultures and identities among the wider population and dispelling myths and misperceptions was raised as a priority by community consultees (p32). Consultees also expressed the need for positive cultural expression and increased understanding of culture and history, including the cultures of newcomer communities. Consultees called for a wider expression of culture including a 12 month calendar mapping special events / holidays for other faiths/cultures and ensuring they are recognised in civic events and festivals (p32). Recognising, understanding and celebrating all cultures in a positive and respectful manner through multi-cultural events and festivals was identified as the top priority related to cultural expression by 71% of respondents to the on-line survey. In addition 59% considered education programmes for children to be a priority and 48% called for community exhibitions on culture and heritage (p46). 			
2.14 Complementarity	Community Planning PCSP Community Services Community Arts			
2.15 Capacity Building	All participants will have a greater opportunity to link with others on an intergenerational basis, learn about traditions, culture and heritage in addition to increasing their skills and knowledge regarding the outdoors and engaging in gardening.			

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2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Learning through Creativity	LCC7
2.03 KEY WORDS	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Fac
2.04 Programme Summary	<p>In a further development from the 2022/23 action plan, it has been identified for the need to enhance the delivery of increasing good relations through the medium of art.</p> <p>Many residents have commented that the use of a third medium including paint, animation, photography, written word and theatrics is a beneficial way to engage with challenging conversations and offer the safe space to increase learning opportunities.</p> <p>Given the vast demographic of the council area, it is anticipated to invite residents from across all DEA's to partake in a programme designed from a person-centred approach resulting in a programme that will be of greater interest, uptake and benefit to those who engage with it.</p> <p>The Good Relations Officer will liaise with the Community Arts team to develop a participant base which will be identified through community and agency contacts including residents who may not have any connections to such organisations. This programme will look at ensuring inclusivity in encouraging those with disabilities, their carers to engage with this programme.</p> <p>The initial stages will consist of building trust and understanding the needs of all participants and using these sessions to identify possible measures that could be implemented.</p> <p>Following the identification of needs, a detailed programme plan will be initiated and implemented. The aim for expression of views, experiences and attitudes to be shared through these various forms will not only enable others to learn from such pieces of work, it will also increase the confidence of the</p>

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	<p>participants themselves and they showcase their finished items throughout the council area.</p> <p>The Good Relations Officer will work with the participants to ensure accurate and ongoing monitoring of the programme takes place.</p> <p>There may be the possibility to develop the programme further by introducing an intergenerational element to the programme.</p>			
2.05 Contact details for programme staff	<p>Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713</p>			
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£5,000			
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	100	Indirect	400
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£50			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	<p>60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion</p>			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Cultural Expression			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is also a need to offer better integration opportunities for those living with a disability. The area needs to create an atmosphere and ethos of “we notice, we care and we’re here to support you” (pg28). • Animation of community spaces to ensure active cross community and intercultural participation and expression, including family activities, throughout the year (pg 31). 			

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2.14 Complementarity	Community Services Community Arts
2.15 Capacity Building	This programme will promote good relations through increasing the access individual have to those from different backgrounds, ethnicities and ages.

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Safe Communities	LCC8
2.03 KEY WORDS	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Youth /
2.04 Programme Summary	<p><u>Youth Programme</u></p> <p>This programme will work with young people from community organisations, youth groups and uniformed groups in addition to detached youth with the primary objective of bringing young people together to increase awareness on racism, bullying, online safety, increased understanding of others and hate crime. The specific content of the workshops and programme will be developed following consultation with the participants.</p> <p>We anticipate the involvement of 50 young people to engage between the ages of 10 – 16 who will partake in structured workshops facilitated with the priority of increasing the sense of belonging with young people within their communities.</p> <p><u>Older People</u></p> <p>In collaboration with PCSP, the programme will be initiated through the identification of isolated and vulnerable older people to bring a programme of activities in an accessible manner directly to the participants. These sessions will include promoting inclusivity with regards to digital skills, awareness of personal safety and shared expression of traditions and attitudes.</p> <p>This programme will be shaped following consultation with the participants, however it is also envisaged to increase relations between PSNI and local older people to increase their sense of safety within their own communities.</p>

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	The Good Relations Officer will establish and maintain relationship with the participants which will be essential in identifying any additional support that may be offered. In addition, ongoing monitoring and assessment of participants will be undertaken through pre and post questionnaires as well as informal observation of engagement.			
2.05 Contact details for programme staff	Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713			
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£4,000			
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	100	Indirect	800
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£40			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Safe Community			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65.8% of online respondents highlighted the need for GR interaction focussed on tackling anti-social behaviour within communities. Consultees expressed the need for proactive action addressing hate crime related to race, religion and sexual orientation (pg 52). 			
2.14 Complementarity	PCSP Community Planning Community Services			
2.15 Capacity Building	Through the increasing of awareness of issues facing and impacting target groups, it is the intention to reduce the negative impact of such topics whilst			

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	promoting an understanding, awareness and level of acceptance with others.
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2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
DEA Initiatives	LCC9
2.03 KEY WORDS	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Shared
2.04 Programme Summary	<p>Development and implementation of a programme to deliver engaging activities across the Council area on a cross community and multi-cultural basis including re-animation of community spaces based upon the needs bespoke to each DEA. This programme will enable activities to be delivered at a local level enabling a swift and tailored approach to be offered depending on the needs of the area.</p> <p>It is anticipated that through this programme, areas with previously low interaction can be improved whilst building and maintaining relationships with new organisations and communities. Activities will be determined on local needs and opportunities and will seek to include a range of interactive elements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music, arts, craft and food events • Volunteering opportunities • Historical activities / storytelling / understanding narratives • Health and wellbeing programmes • Identification of collaborative working opportunities <p>The programme will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping of existing community activities / events • Identification of barriers to engagement and development of solutions • Engagement of community groups in each DEA and co-design of appropriate activities to meet demographic needs and ensure cross community and multi-cultural interaction.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of best practice across DEAs – how to invigorate your community and achieve maximum impact. • Increasing the perception of inclusivity regardless of background • Undertake regular monitoring and evaluation with a built-in review process to adapt the programme through the lifespan to ensure maximised engagement is achieved. 			
2.05 Contact details for programme staff	Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713			
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£14,000			
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	1400	Indirect	3000
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£10			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Shared Community			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultees identified that the impact of the pandemic and lack of community activities has resulted in an increase in loneliness and lack of community infrastructure within the Council area (p29). Consultees identified a need to encourage and support communities in re-engaging in civic and social life. • Consultees also identified the need to focus good relations activities within the community and voluntary sector (p30). • Consultees identified a need for build activities around expressions of culture which are 			

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	<p>culturally diverse and delivered in a celebratory way (p31).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-line survey results indicate a need for activities for the whole family, activities for older people and development of more shared use of existing community spaces (p44 & p46).
2.14 Complementarity	<p>Community Arts PEACE PCSP Community Planning Community Services</p>
2.15 Capacity Building	<p>Increasing access to other communities and new individuals will not only increase community ownership and a greater sense of belonging but encourage relationships to be formed with those who may not otherwise communicate.</p>

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Community Integration	LCC10
2.03 KEY WORDS	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Shared
2.04 Programme Summary	<p>The programme will increase opportunities available for engagement particularly for those identified as belonging to a minority group within the council area, including those of different cultural backgrounds, those living with disabilities and their carers and the LGBTQIA+ community in civic and social life.</p> <p>To ensure the programme has the maximised impact on the targeted groups, the GRO will facilitate the co-design of the programme content to ensure the needs and aspirations of the participants are met.</p> <p>The stages will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of the target participants, recruitment and support Co-design process to be implemented through facilitation and consultation Delivery of programmes potentially including English Language Classes, information workshops, personal development sessions, promotion of cultures and improved connectivity with civic and social life within the council area.

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2.05 Contact details for programme staff	Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713			
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£4,000			
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	250	Indirect	800
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£16			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion			
2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Shared Community			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs analysis of people from ethnic minority backgrounds living in Lisburn highlighted the need for opportunities for people of different cultural backgrounds to mix and learn from each other (p28). Consultation highlighted the need to encourage and support communities to re-engage in civic / social life through community and voluntary sector programmes post-pandemic through appropriate activities (p29 & p30). The need to ensure people of all backgrounds are not subject to prejudice and are included in activities was highlighted through consultation (p31). The need to ensure newcomer communities feel welcome and engaged was also highlighted (p31). The need to ensure engagement opportunities which are accessible to those living with disability and their carers was highlighted (p32). 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultees also called for opportunities / events which encourage positive cultural expression and celebration (p32). • On-line survey highlighted the need to ensure public spaces are safe for all (63% of respondents) (p40). The survey also called for activities for the whole family regardless of age (p44) and for multi-cultural activities (p46).
2.14 Complementarity	Community Arts PEACE PCSP Community Planning Community Services
2.15 Capacity Building	Increased sense of belonging for newcomer communities living and thriving within the council area. There will be an increased sense of pride for the council area and a greater acceptance of one another which will transcend to other individuals within the target communities. It is anticipated that following this programme, the engagement and interaction with the participants and their respective communities will increase in future Good Relations initiatives.

2.01 PROGRAMME NAME	2.02 CODE
Good Relations Steering Group	LCC11
2.03 KEY WORDS	Diverse / Skills
2.04 Programme Summary	The continuation and further enhancement of a Good Relations Steering Group within Council consisting of a partnership of council officers representing a range of interests. The partnership will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Planning - Peace - Community Development - Sports - Community Arts - PCSP - PSNI - Education Authority - Museum - Communications - And offer the flexibility to increase the membership when required.

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	<p>The objective of the steering group will be to work collaboratively to integrate good relations throughout the Council's programmes and activities to maximise the good relations outcomes of Council.</p> <p>The steering group will meet on a quarterly basis to review the progress of the Good Relations Action Plan, identify potential collaborative programmes and work collectively in ensuring emerging needs are supported and addressed.</p> <p>In relation to this programme, the Good Relations Officer will -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrange and assist in the facilitation of the meetings - Establish a terms of reference for agreement of the steering group - Provide an update on the good relations action plan - Identify and support the facilitation for the opportunity for the integration of good relations engagement through other council programmes - Promote the progress and outcomes of completed programmes delivered by Good Relations. <p>This element will also enable the wider promotion of good relations for further inclusion across other programmes with the benefit of increasing awareness across council departments and employees.</p>			
2.05 Contact details for programme staff	Lynsey Gray Good Relations Officer Bridge Community Centre, 50 Railway Street Lisburn, BT28 1XP Lynsey.Gray@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk 028 9244 7713			
2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)	£0			
2.07 Total target no. of participants	Direct	30	Indirect	100
2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme	£0			
2.09 Targeted participant background analysis	60% PUL 30% CNR 10% Other / No Religion			

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2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ	Location	Lagan Valley Island	Postcode	BT27 4RL
2.11 Names and post codes for main areas of programme impact	Location	Killultagh	Postcode	BT67 0JG
	Location	Lisburn South	Postcode	BT28 2UB
	Location	Castlereagh East	Postcode	BT16 2QG
	Location	Downshire West	Postcode	BT26 6AR
2.12 T:BUC Key Aim	Our Shared Community			
2.13 Link to good relations audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation identified the need to engage people in civic and social life (p29) and for increased accessibility to shared community space (p29). • Consultation also highlighted the need to raise the profile of the Good Relations programme within the area to build community confidence in the ability to create tangible outcomes (p30). The ability to further integrate Good Relations in civic services and facilities provision is therefore a priority. 			
2.14 Complementarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Planning - Peace - Community Development - Sports - Community Arts - PCSP - PSNI - Education Authority - Museum - Communications 			
2.15 Capacity Building	Ability to further promote and embed good relations through all aspects of council programmes with shared learning across the delivery programmes.			

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Section 3

Action Plan Programme Outcome Summary Table 2023/24

Programme name (2.01)	Code (2.02)	Key Aim (2.12)	Key Words (2.03)	No. direct participants (2.07)	Total Cost (2.06)	Post Codes (2.11)
Good Relations Grant Funding	LCC1	Our Shared Community	Sin-ID, Diverse, Rural, Urban	1400	£34,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR
Youth Council Leadership Programme	LCC2	Children & Young People	Youth / Diverse / Skills / Employ	60	£10,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR
Our Culture & Heritage	LCC3	Our Shared Community	Diverse / Shared / Sin-ID/	5000	£14,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR
Our Shared Goad	LCC4	Children & Young People	Diverse / Shared / Youth	200	£5,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR
GRow	LCC5	Our Shared Community	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Nature / Fac / Summer	80	£4,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR
Cultural Celebrations	LCC6	Our Cultural Expression	Diverse / Rural / Urban	600	£9,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR
Learning through Creativity	LCC7	Our Cultural Expression	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Fac	100	£4,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR
Safe Communities	LCC8	Our Safe Community	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Youth /	100	£5,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR

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DEA Initiatives	LCC9	Our Safe Communities	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Shared	1400	£14,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR
Community Integration	LCC10	Our Shared Community	Diverse / Rural / Urban / Shared	250	£4,000	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR
Good Relations Steering Group	LCC11	Our Shared Community	Diverse / Skills	30	£0	BT67 0JG BT28 2UB BT16 2QG BT26 6AR

Section 4

T:BUC Strategic Outcome

	C&YP	Shared community	Safe community	Cultural Expression	DCGRP Total
Total no. of programmes	2	5	2	2	11
Total no. of direct participants	260	6750	1500	700	9200
Unit cost of programme activity	£57.69	£8.29pp	£12.66pp	£18.57	£11.19
Total cost of programmes	£15,000	£56,000	£19,000	£13,000	£103,000

Guidance on completing the action plan

This section provides detailed guidance on how to complete the Action Plan template for 2023/24

Cover page

Complete the name of your District Council and the name of the Council's Chief Executive.

Section 1 – Programme and Financial Information

1.1 Programme information

Provide the total number of programmes and list the name, role and contact information, including telephone number/ext and email, for each staff member involved in programme delivery.

It is very important that you have the appropriate staff and governance structures in place to manage and deliver the programmes detailed in the Action Plan, and ensure that all required reporting and claims processes are able to be completed and submitted on time.

1.2 Financial information

This section asks you to provide the information on the financial aspects of the council's overall programme.

The first box asks you to list the name, role and contact information, including telephone number/ext and email, for each staff member involved in financial management of the programme.

The second box asks you to complete the overall programme's financial information, broken down by 100% (includes match funding of 25% from your council) and 75% (TEO's allocation only) for the following:

- Total cost (overall programme & staff costs)
- Total programme costs
- Total staff costs
- Staff cost breakdown

1.3 Claim deadlines

This section outlines the council's responsibility to ensure all claims for expenditure are made promptly. It also includes a list of deadlines for claims by quarter.

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Section 2 – Programme action plan

Completing the action plan template.

2.01 Programme name

Enter the programme name.

2.02/2.03 Programme code and Key words

Each programme is denoted by the three digit code unique to each District Council, followed by a number to separate individual council programmes.

For example: ABC2 is the second programme in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council's Action Plan. MUC14 is the fourteenth programme in Mid Ulster District Council's Action Plan.

The programme codes are listed in the table below.

ANA Antrim & Newtownabbey	FAO – Fermanagh & Omagh
ABC – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	LCC – Lisburn & Castlereagh
AND – Ards & North Down	MEA – Mid & East Antrim
BCC – Belfast	MUC – Mid Ulster
CCG – Causeway, Coast & Glens	NMD – Newry, Mourne & Down
DCS – Derry City & Strabane	

Include **key words** that relate to the project. This can be as many as you deem relevant from the list below. If you feel a particular key word would help summarise what your programme involves then please add it and let us know, this list will evolve over time and become more useful to stakeholders as more accurate keywords are added to the list.

Keyword	Suitable for programmes that:
SPORT	Contain a sporting element
DIVERSE	Explore diversity, in terms of participants and/or project content
RURAL	Take place in, or consider, the rural context of good relations delivery
URBAN	Take place in, or consider, the urban context of good relations delivery

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SIN-ID	Are single identity in nature
SHARED	That involve both traditions here
YOUTH	Concentrate on younger participants/issues (0-18)
ADULT	Concentrate on adult participants/issues (19-64)
SENIOR	Concentrate on senior participants/issues (65+)
WALLS	Considers physical barriers
SUMMER	Takes place primarily in the summer
WINTER	Takes place primarily in the winter
FAC	Involves facilitation
RES	Involves a residential
NATURE	Takes place/involves nature or the natural environment
EMPLOY	Involves links to employment / improving employability skills
SKILLS	Involves improving / developing skills
ACCRED	Involves participants working toward an accredited qualification
TRIP	Involves a trip or trips away for the participants
ART	Involves the use of art and/or creative activity
TREES	Involves opportunities for people from all backgrounds to learn more about the environment in a shared good relations context.

2.04 Programme Summary

Provide a brief programme synopsis – what the project involves, what demographic it seeks to target, what outcome it is designed to achieve, and what activity is involved.

2.05 Contact details for programme staff

Provide the details of the Good Relations Officer involved in the delivery of the programme. This should include a contact telephone number and an email address.

2.06 Total budgeted cost of programme (100%)

Provide the total (100%) budgeted cost of the programme.

2.07 Total targeted no. of participants

Provide the total targeted number of direct and indirect participants of the programme.

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A direct participant is one who attends the programme or is otherwise directly engaged in programme activity. For example, if a programme involves putting on a performance to demonstrate an aspect of shared history, all those involved in the planning, design and delivery of the performance would be direct participants.

An indirect participant is one who may receive some benefit from, or be impacted in some indirect way, by programme delivery. In the previous example of the performance on shared history, people in the audience or children in a school who had viewed a DVD of the performance, would be indirect participants of the programme.

2.08 Budgeted unit cost of programme

Divide the total cost of the programme by the total number of direct participants to get the unit cost.

2.09 Targeted participant background analysis

Provide the approximate community/gender/ethnicity/socio-economic breakdown that you plan to achieve.

2.10 Name and post code of Programme HQ

Provide the name and post code of the location where the Programme HQ is based.

2.11 Post codes of main delivery points

Provide the names and post codes of the geographic location(s) where the project **will have the greatest impact.**

You should include the locations of areas where the programme is delivering the greatest impact to the community or benefit to participants.

For example if participants on a programme are primarily from three estates in a town (and therefore those estates should experience the most positive impact from delivery), then this section would include the names and post code information for those three estates – where estates or other geographic areas traverse more than one post code area, use a post code that gives the best impression of the central point of such an area.

2.12 Key Aim

Select one Key Aim for the Programme from the four key T:BUC aims and note in here.

2.13 Link to good relations audit

This section asks you to provide information about the programme's direct link to the need identified in your council's GR Audit.

2.14 Complementarity

This section asks you to list the areas of complementarity (PCSP, Peace IV, Peace Plus, community planning, MEDF, etc.) within the programme. You should include evidence of complementarity in programme design, structure and outcome.

2.15 Capacity Building

Indicate how the Programme seeks to build capacity in relation to good relations delivery in the area it focuses on.

Section 3 - Action Plan Programme Outcome Summary Table 2023/24

This section asks you to provide a summary of the provision across the programme in one table. The summary should be completed for submission of the Action Plan and updated during the funding cycle as you submit your quarter progress.

Section 4 - T:BUC Strategic Outcome

This section asks you to provide a summary of all individual programmes based on the link to a key T:BUC aim identified for the programme. You must provide the following:

- Total no. of programmes
- Total no. of participants
- Unit cost of programme activity
- Total cost of programmes

The four T:BUC key aims are Children and Young People (abbreviated here as C&YP), Shared community, Safe community and Cultural Expression.

For example under C&YP, the table below indicates that the council had eight programmes where C&YP was the primary linked strategic outcome.

The eight programmes had a total of 425 participants and, in total, cost £50,000 to deliver.

The unit cost of programme activity per person is calculated as follows:

Total programme cost ÷ Total no of participants = unit cost per person

To get the unit cost of programme activity per person for this example you would work out as follows:

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$£50,000 \div 425 \text{ participants} = £118 \text{ per person}$

	C&YP	Shared community	Safe community	Cultural Expression	DCGRP Total
Total no. of programmes (linked to the strategic aim)	8	10	6	12	36
Total no. of participants (sum of participants from all programmes linked to the strategic aim)	425	320	125	200	1,070
Unit cost of programme activity per person (Total programme cost \div Total no of participants = unit cost per person)	$£50,000 \div 425$ participants = £118 per person	$=40,000/320 = £125$ per person	$=50,000/320 = £156$ per person	$=40,000/200 = £200$ per person	$=180,000/1,070 = £168$ per person
Total cost of programmes (sum of delivery costs for all programmes linked to the strategic aim)	£50,000	£40,000	£50,000	£40,000	180,000

NB: Guidance on the Outcome Process will follow separately

Further guidance

If you have any further questions please contact Julie McCormack on julie.mccormack@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk (028 9037 8720) or Neil Lynas on neil.lynas@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk (028 9052 0048) to discuss before you return your application.

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DRAFT



Leisure and Community Development Committee

7 February 2023

Report from:

Head of Communities

Item for Decision

TITLE: Request for delegated authority to approve award of funding against the Support Programme for asylum seekers and refugees

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. In December 2022, following recommendations from this committee, it was agreed by Council to proceed to plan and co-design a bespoke framework to build capacity and infrastructure to assist asylum seekers and refugees in the LCCC area.
2. Funding for necessary interventions is to be provided to Council by The Executive Office (TEO), which at the time of writing has been verbally agreed at £40,000, for implementation by end March 2023. Additional resources are being considered separately by TEO for the 23/24 financial year, commencing April 2023. The committee will be updated as soon as further details are known.

Support Fund

3. On Friday 27 January 2023, a 'Support Fund' programme was launched inviting applications from community/voluntary organisations based in and/or operating in the Council area to apply for an award between £5- £7k. Such groups are required to be in a position to provide support which meets the following programme criteria:

- Delivery of a local co-ordination effort to support new and existing minority ethnic households, including refugee and asylum seekers, settling in the Council area;
 - Adoption of a partnership approach with relevant agencies across the Lisburn and Castlereagh area to ensure holistic support is provided to asylum seekers and refugees living locally;
 - Develop effective support and pathway connections between the relevant support agencies in the Lisburn & Castlereagh area for the asylum and refugee population which will provide wraparound support and integration;
 - Delivery of programming which addresses needs of the asylum and refugee population which ensures that their needs are being met and they feel part of the local community; This can include the provision of a meeting space and community assistance centre;
 - Delivery of translation/interpreting services as required on site to ensure the appropriate support is being put in place and is understood by the person/s requiring assistance;
 - Establish networks to build capacity and infrastructure to assist asylum seekers and refugees and their integration with local communities;
4. Due to the requirement of TEO to expedite this funding in the current financial year, the closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday 7 February. The applications received by this deadline will be scored, with the shortlisted groups invited to present to a panel of Council officers on Friday 10 February, in advance of a recommendation to fund being agreed.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that delegated authority is granted to the Head of Communities, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to agree the award of funding to the successful organisations in order that delivery can begin as soon as possible thereafter.

Finance and Resource Implications

£40k provided by The Executive Office

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy?

Yes

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

Screened in line with Community Support Grant Funding. Separate screening will be undertaken when exact Terms of Reference are known in line with Letter of Offer from TEO for the 23/24 Expression of Interest.

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1
Screen out
without mitigation

Option 2
Screen out with
mitigation

Option 3
Screen in for
a full EQIA

Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been
given to Rural Needs?

Has a Rural Needs Impact
Assessment (RNIA) template been
completed?

If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:

Support Fund 2023/24

No	Group	DEA	Score	Requested Amount
1	LCC Community Trust	Lisburn South	76%	£6,000.00
2	Resurgam Youth Initiative	Lisburn South	61%	£6,985.00
3	YMCA Lisburn	Lisburn North	83%	£5,530.00
4	Avic NI (in partnership with CALC)	Council-wide	91%	£6,850.00
	Total			£25,365.00



Leisure & Community Development Committee

7th February 2023

Report from:

Head of Parks & Amenities

Item for Decision

TITLE: Open Spaces (Green) Strategy 2022-2026

Background and Key Issues:

1. In May 2016 Members of the Leisure & Community Development Committee approved the commission of an Open Spaces Strategy however this was not progressed at the time whilst other projects and policies were being finalised.
2. This strategy will enable the Leisure and Community Wellbeing Directorate to prioritise areas most in need of improvement, using a reliable and up-to-date evidence base. The accompanying action plan is not 'costed', nor does it present definitive timeframes for delivery as these are all subject to the availability of future funding and in some cases planning permission. It does however provide the Council with a rationale and evidence base to progress projects and to support Council applications for external grant funding.
3. The vision for green open spaces in Lisburn & Castlereagh is that:-

The city, towns, villages and suburbs of Lisburn and Castlereagh will enjoy a range of attractive and accessible parks and open spaces close to where people live. "Flagship" parks, greenspaces and play areas will draw local residents and visitors to both urban and rural centres, providing places for social interaction, play, sport, recreation and quality of life for all.

Existing open spaces will be protected and enhanced to diversify urban habitats and extend the green network. Where possible, open spaces will be linked by a network of paths and green corridors to encourage active travel, healthier lifestyles and exploration of the outdoors."

4. In November 2018 the Development Committee considered that an Assessment of Open Space was required for the Local Development Plan (LDP), the purpose of which was to gain evidence in relation to the quality, quantity and accessibility/distribution of open space across the Council area. That in itself does not represent an Open Space Strategy, nor does it provide an Action Plan that allows the Council to prioritise investment in future provision.
5. So a joint proposal was presented to both Committees to deliver:-
 - A Council Open Space Strategy;
 - An Assessment of Open Space; and
 - An Action Plan.
6. The Development Committee approved the joint commission on 2 April 2019 with the Leisure & Community Development Committee approving it on the same date.
7. To ensure that parks and open spaces are fit for the future, six guiding strategic principles have been set out to help achieve the vision:
 - Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being and social benefits to communities
 - Provide exciting, active and inclusive places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings
 - Support and encourage access to high quality open space close to where people live that meets the needs of different ages, abilities and backgrounds
 - Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride
 - Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change and reduce and prevent biodiversity loss
 - Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open spaces
8. The Open Spaces (Green) Strategy links into the wider Strategic Greenways proposed through the Department for Infrastructure's publication "Strategic Greenways – Exercise, Explore, Enjoy" (DfI 2016). This would help deliver on many of the actions identified through the Council's Community Plan given the direct correlation to improving health and well-being and creating further opportunities for recreation and leisure.

9. The Open Spaces (Green) Strategy will help to ensure that the LDP and its decisions are informed by robust and up to date evidence in relation to future need and open space provision across the Council area. Additionally this will help inform the Transformation Directorate on how future investments are made through the Capital Programme.
10. On 9 September 2019 a draft Plan Strategy and associated documents were presented to all Members in a Special Development Committee in advance of publication of the draft Plan Strategy in October 2019. On 1 December 2020 a Draft Strategy went to Leisure & Community Development Committee with feedback sought from Members throughout the following months.
11. COVID has ultimately played a major factor in delaying the conclusion of the Strategy. On 22 and 24 March 2021 online webinars were held with Members and statutory partners ahead of progressing to an online public consultation.
12. The final draft is now presented to Members to conclude the Strategy and enable the Action Plan to be formally initiated.
13. Going forward it is anticipated that the Action Plan will remain a live document and can be updated, added to and reviewed on an annual basis through a variety of means including Member workshops, Community Conversations and community planning engagements. Members will note that Officers have continued to implement the Action Plan and recommendations arising out of the consultations.
14. The Action Plan will be monitored by the Head of Parks & Amenities and feedback and lessons learned incorporated into future projects.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members approve the final draft of the Open Spaces (Green) Strategy 2022-26 and accompanying Action Plan.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Any projects arising out of the Action Plan will be resourced individually through a variety of sources, when brought forward for approval.

Screening:

Equality and
Good Relations

Yes

Environmental
Impact
Assessment

No

Rural
Impact
Assessment

Yes

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

Appendix 2 [P&A] – Open Spaces (Green) Strategy 2022-26

Appendix 3 [P&A] – Action Plan

Appendix 4 [P&A] – Public Consultation Summary

Appendix 5 [P&A] – Equality Screening

Appendix 6 [P&A] – Rural Needs Impact Assessment

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

If Yes, please insert date:

Open Spaces (Green) Strategy 2022 - 2026



by

IronsideFarrar Ltd

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September 2022

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Foreword

The Council is pleased to announce the publication of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's first Open Spaces (Green) Strategy.

The Open Spaces (Green) Strategy has been endorsed by Members of the Development and Leisure and Community Development Committees in XX 2022 and by full City Council in XX 2022.

This marks the first step in shaping the future direction of our open space for all of our community to enjoy. It builds on the open space audit undertaken by the Council as part of the Local Development Plan process, and its focus is on a planned and managed network of multi-functional open spaces, which can deliver a range of environmental, economic and social benefits for local communities. It feeds into a 5 year Action Plan which identifies priorities and projects to build and enhance our open space where a need has been identified.

The Council recognises the importance of creating a healthy, active and accessible environment connecting places and people, where biodiversity, conservation and adapting to climate change are key.

Executive Summary

Lisburn & Castlereagh stretches from the shores of Lough Neagh in the west to the hills above Dundonald in the east, and from the Belfast Hills in the north to an area close to the source of the River Lagan in the south. The Council covers an area of almost 200 square miles (520 square km). The City of Lisburn, has a history of Irish linen production during the 19th and 20th centuries and a number of historic parks and gardens. The east of Council area has also a rich heritage including Dundonald Motte, one of the largest in Northern Ireland dating back to the 12th century.

The towns and villages have a rich built and natural environment, including the landscapes and architecture of Royal Hillsborough, including the Royal Castle and gardens and the rolling drumlin topography, woodlands and farmland of the Lagan Valley Regional Park. The area is characterised by the strong urban core of Lisburn and a diverse and rich rural hinterland of scenic landscape and villages rich in built heritage.

The Council has a wealth of parks, gardens, outdoor sports facilities and other open spaces. There are also in excess of 50 equipped children's playgrounds spread across the Lisburn and Castlereagh City council area providing children with the opportunities to learn and play in a safe environment. Each year the Council implements a rolling programme of playground refurbishments and often adds to this stock of purpose built play areas across the council area, an example being the new multi-purpose play facility River Road Play Park at Seymour Hill, Lisburn, developed in consultation with local community groups and housing association.

In 2019 we carried out an open space audit which assessed open space provision, accessibility and future actions. The findings were used to develop this Open Spaces (Green) Strategy and to set a vision.

The vision for green open spaces in Lisburn & Castlereagh is that ...

The city, towns, villages and suburbs of Lisburn and Castlereagh will enjoy a range of attractive and accessible parks and open spaces close to where people live. "Flagship" parks, greenspaces and play areas will draw local residents and visitors to both urban and rural centres, providing places for social interaction, play, sport, recreation and quality of life for all.

Existing open spaces will be protected and enhanced to diversify urban habitats and extend the green network. Where possible, open spaces will be linked by a network of paths and green corridors to encourage active travel, healthier lifestyles and exploration of the outdoors."

To ensure that parks and open spaces are fit for the future, six guiding strategic principles have been set out to help achieve the vision:

Strategic Principles

1. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being and social benefits to communities
2. Provide exciting, active and inclusive places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings
3. Support and encourage access to high quality open space close to where people live that meets the needs of different ages, abilities and backgrounds
4. Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride
5. Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change and reduce and prevent biodiversity loss.
6. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open spaces

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Open Spaces (Green) Strategy

The Open Spaces (Green) Strategy for Lisburn and Castlereagh has been prepared on behalf of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC). In 2019 an Open Space Audit was carried out, providing the evidence base for the Local Development Plan (LDP) Open Space Technical Supplement. An Open Space Strategy is the formally approved policy document defining the Council's approach, commitment and management to protect, enhance and manage open space assets.

The Open Spaces (Green) Strategy seeks to secure best value and provide a prioritised framework for investment, maintenance, management and Best Value. The Strategy will provide clear and concise guidance on best value utilisation of the Council resources in order to provide allocation and future spend decisions.

The Council envisages that an Open Spaces (Green) Strategy will:

- reinforce local identity and civic pride
- enhance the physical character of an area
- improve physical and social inclusion, including accessibility
- protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological habitats
- provide for children and young people's play and recreation
- boost the economic potential of tourism, leisure and cultural activities
- help mitigate and adapt to climate change
- contribute to the creation of healthy places that benefit people's mental and physical health
- assist in informing the Council's future investment decisions

The Council recognises that good quality and easily accessible open space can contribute to a better quality of life. The Council

owns and maintains a large variety of open space, sport and outdoor recreational areas throughout the Council area. There are also privately-owned areas of open space including private playing fields in sports clubs and the education sector and grassland areas, glens, parks, walkways and amenity green space located within housing areas.

The Strategy focusses on LCCC owned and managed green open space but takes cognisance of privately owned open space. However, there are other areas of public sector land, including land in Housing Executive ownership.

1.2 The Council Area

The Strategy included the City of Lisburn and the towns and villages in the wider Council area. The open space sites have been split into the District Electoral Areas of Killultagh, Downshire West, Downshire East, Lisburn South, Lisburn North, Castlereagh East and Castlereagh South.



1.3 Investment in Parks

In the past 2 years alone, the Council has invested in the development of its parks and open spaces to protect our environment, improve our biodiversity and make Lisburn & Castlereagh an attractive place to live in, visit and work in. For example, such improvement schemes include:

- Rebranding and creation of Billy Neill MBE Country Park – opening up kilometres of DDA accessible walking and cycling paths, access and car parking for the Comber Greenway and the establishment of a wetlands meadow
- Creation of outdoor community event space at Moat Park and a new Garden of Reflection
- Provision of a 60m pedestrian & cycling bridge to create linkages between the Comber Greenway to Dundonald leisure park
- Provision of six new outdoor gym sites
- Creation of a sensory garden at Moira Demesne
- A complete refurbishment of Bells Lane Allotments and the creation of a community building with outdoor teaching space, DDA accessible raised beds, toilets, car parking and polytunnel
- A total of 4,407 trees were planted between 2019 – 2020 and 28,670 trees were planted in 2020 – 2021

1.4 Award Winning Parks

In 2022, Lisburn City was named 'the Best Kept Large Urban Centre in Ireland' at Ireland's Best Kept Town Awards demonstrating the community and council's commitment to excellence and team work.

The standard of the Council parks has been independently judged and benchmarked by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, the environmental charity that runs the Green Flag Award scheme in Northern Ireland. The Green Flag Award is an internationally

recognised certification for environmental quality management for parks and open spaces.

Parks and open spaces wishing to achieve Green Flag status must have a site management plan in place and be able to demonstrate they comply with a range of strict criteria including horticultural standards, cleanliness, environmental management, biodiversity, community involvement and safety standards.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council hold 7 Green Flag awards for:

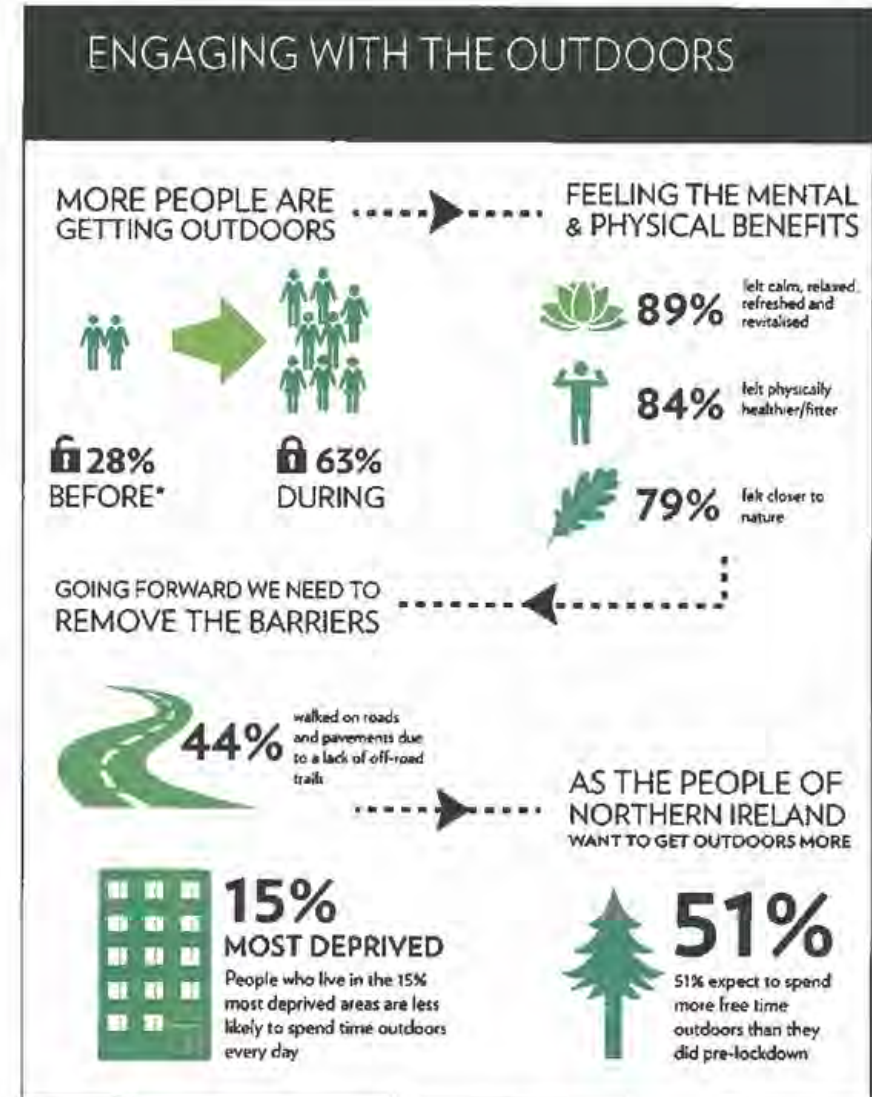
- Wallace Park, Lisburn
- Castle Gardens, Lisburn
- Bells Lane Allotments (including Bells Lane Park), Lisburn
- Moira Demesne
- Moat Park, Dundonald
- Billy Neill MBE Country Park, Dundonald
- Sir Milne Barbour Park, Lisburn



1.5 The Benefits of Green Open Space

Green open spaces contribute to a range of national and local policies, including sustainable development, climate change adaptation, carbon management, outdoor learning, healthy living, active travel, biodiversity, habitat protection, tourism and social equity policies. They can perform multiple functions, including¹:

- (i) **Strategic functions** – defining and separating urban areas, providing community greenways, ‘green lungs’ and better linking of town and country.
- (ii) **Urban quality** – helping to support regeneration and improving quality of life for communities by providing visually attractive green spaces close to where people live.
- (iii) **Promoting health and well-being** – promotion of active travel routes providing high quality paths and connections to and between open spaces, and along paths, bridleways and river / canals. Allotments also provide health benefits.
- (iv) **Havens and habitats for flora and fauna** – sites may also have potential to be corridors or stepping stones from one habitat to another and may contribute towards achieving objectives set out in the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy
- (v) **Community cohesion and community resource** – a place for congregating and for holding community events.
- (vi) **Visual amenity** – even without public access, people enjoy having open space near to them to provide an outlook, variety in the urban scene, or as a positive element in the landscape.
- (vii) **Climate resilience** – open space can operate as a carbon sink, and nature-based solutions can counteract the effects of climate change, for example through SuDs.



Source: Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland – May 2020

¹ Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

1.6 How Green Open Spaces are Used

Consultation on the draft strategy was open from December 2021 to the end of February 2022. The online engagement was facilitated through a “virtual room”, which presented a summary of the strategy and the findings of the open space audit. There was opportunity to complete a questionnaire, which raised awareness of the strategy, consult on the 5 year Action Plan, identifying priorities and projects to build and enhance our open space.

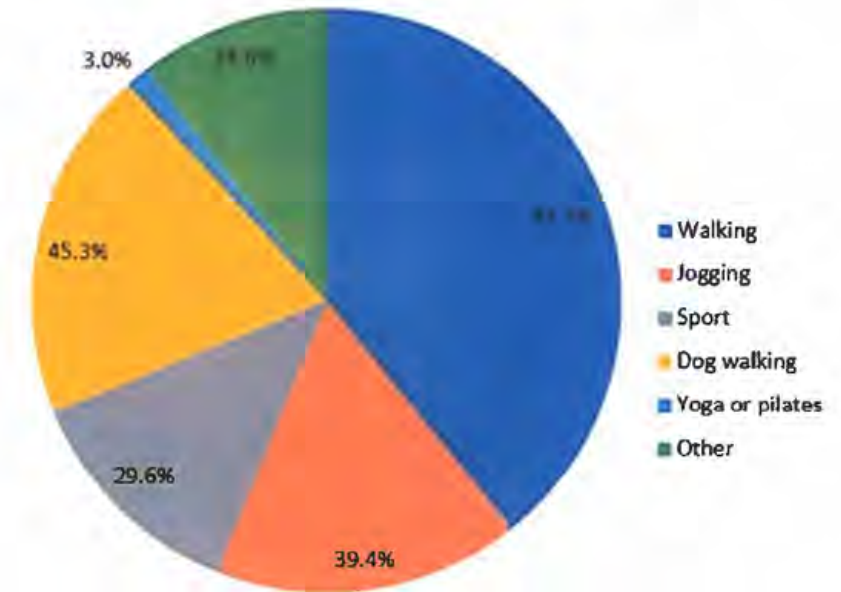


During the consultation period the online consultation was accessed 486 times and the article hosted on the LCCC website was accessed 301 times.

A wide range of questions were asked, including whether the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way people use their local open spaces.

59% of people said that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way they use their local open spaces.

Lisburn and Castlereagh’s open spaces are used for a wide variety of activities, including: picnics, cycling, kids playing, for fresh air, “sitting and watching the world”, running, wildlife, meditation, family activities, Scouting, meeting with friends, painting, relaxing, socialising, mountain biking, tandem cycling, bird watching, photography, roller skating and various volunteering activities outdoors. The chart below illustrates the main uses of open space.



What do you mainly use our outdoor spaces for?

2.0 Policy Context

2.1 Northern Ireland Regional Context

The significance of open space provision and management has become a key feature of planning policy over the last few decades. This is due to the recognised multiple benefits of open space, derived from the diverse range and type of open space available to communities. The Programme for Government (PfG) tasked the Executive with delivering improved wellbeing for all citizens. The benefits of open space directly relate to the following PfG outcomes:

- Our children and young people have the best start in life
- We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment
- We have an equal and inclusive society where everyone is valued and treated with respect
- We all enjoy long, healthy lives
- People want to live, work and visit here

One of the key aims of the **Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035** is to 'Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake'. It states that protecting the environment is essential for enhancing the quality of life of current and future generations. Northern Ireland's environment is one of its greatest assets, with its stunning landscapes, an outstanding coastline, a complex variety of wildlife and a rich built and cultural heritage.

Regional planning policy as set out in the **Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)** states that open space, whether or not there is public access to it, is important for its contribution to the quality of urban life by providing important green lungs, visual breaks and wildlife habitats in built-up areas. Open space can enhance the character of residential areas, civic buildings, conservation areas, listed buildings and archaeological sites. It can

also help to attract business and tourism and thereby contribute to the process of urban and rural regeneration.

The coronavirus pandemic has brought the concept of the 20 minute neighbourhood to the forefront of public policy and planning. Cities around the world are adopting variations on 20 minute neighbourhood concept. It is about living more locally by giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20 minute walk from home, with safe cycling and local transport options. The concept will be considered in more depth in the Local Development Plan and the DEA development programmes.



There will be a policy presumption against the loss of open space to competing land uses in Local Development Plans LDPs irrespective of its physical condition and appearance. Further provision is required to provide adequate and well-designed open space as an integral part of new residential developments. Operational policies provide the detail around the implementation and interpretation of the regional aims and objectives for open space provision and protection.²

2.2 Local Policy Context

This Open Space Strategy is supported by the Open Space Audit contained in the Local Development Plan (LDP) Technical Supplement 7 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation. This provides an evidence base which will support and influence the future policy direction, particularly at Local Policies Plan stage.

The **Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Plan** requires an integrated approach in the delivery of its aims and objectives in particular health, education, community safety the voluntary sector arts and leisure. The Community Plan includes three relevant primary outcomes with relevance to open space:

- 1: 'Children and young people have the best start in life.'
- 3: 'We live healthy, fulfilling and long lives.'
- 4: 'We live and work in attractive, resilient and environmentally-friendly places.'

Working within the policy framework set by the Executive's RDS, the Lisburn and Castlereagh Corporate Plan, the Community Plan and the Local Development Plan set out policies to deliver the

Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government. The **Local Development Plan** takes account of all regional policy and guidance and the policies contained with the Plan Strategy seek to deliver and reflect the spatial aspects of the Community Plan.

The Local Development Plan recognises the importance of our open space. Plan Objective D: An Attractive Place seeks to protect and enhance all open space, recognising its value in promoting health and well-being and resolving flood issues through the introduction of sustainable urban drainage infrastructure; and support and encourage accessibility to open space including the Lagan Valley Regional Park and Lagan Navigation as key assets within the Council area.

The Plan also recognises the importance of community and strategic greenways in contributing to open space provision and the health and well-being of residents. These utilise existing blue and green infrastructure which can facilitate opportunities for walking, cycling, connecting people and places with reduced reliance on the private car. Further details on the LDP can be found on the Council's website at: www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk.

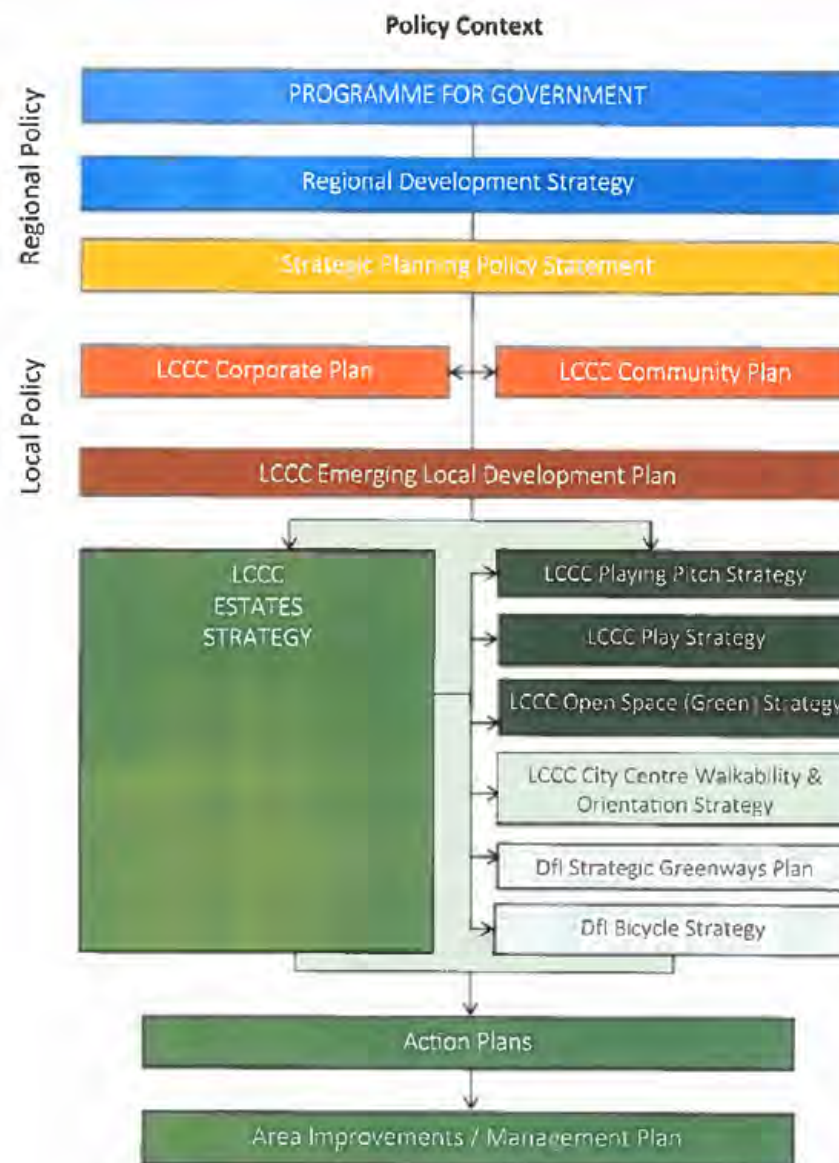
The **Corporate Plan** contains the following strategic themes, which are the Council's main priorities that:

- 'We live healthier, more fulfilling and longer lives.'
- 'We live in resilient and environmentally friendly places.'

² Operational policies contained within PPS 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation will be replaced by the Plan Strategy operational policies on its adoption.

The Council published its **Local Biodiversity Action Plan** in 2017, which recognises the importance of biodiversity linking to open spaces which support the range of habitats and species important to local communities. The Council has taken a holistic approach to fulfilling its obligations under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 Act, to ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity including actions and considerations in the 'Where we Live' section in the Council's Community Plan and in the Local Development Plan recognising that biodiversity is key to sustainable development.

There are many Natural Heritage designations including Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV), Sites of Local Nature Conservation (SLNCl), Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA) and approximately half of the Lagan Valley Regional Park area which is designated as an Area of Outstanding Beauty is contained within the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area. Beyond these protected sites, in the wider countryside, land is managed for agriculture some of which will be under agri-environment scheme agreements. These are designed to encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly management practices which can have great benefits for our biodiversity.



2.3 Regional & Local Green Infrastructure Context

The development of the Open Spaces (Green) Strategy has been progressed in line with the following regional and local green infrastructure plans and strategies.

In 2015, LCCC prepared a **Playing Pitch Strategy**³ with the purpose of enabling the Council to make informed planning decisions regarding pitch provision and assists with the targeting of financial investment and the planning of the delivery of sports development programmes.

The Council commissioned a **Play Strategy**⁴ in 2015, including playability audits for fixed play provision under the council's ownership, providing an overview of current and future potential levels of supply and demand.



In 2016, the Department for Infrastructure developed **Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways**, setting out a series of greenways in Northern Ireland as traffic-free routes connecting communities to all kinds of destinations for commuting, everyday journeys for leisure and recreation. Three strategic greenways are proposed in the Council area: a Primary route extending the existing Sustrans NCN9 from Sprucefield, through the Maze Lands to Moira and onwards towards Portadown; a Secondary Greenway connecting Carryduff to the Primary Belfast Greenway; and a secondary route connecting Lisburn to Banbridge.



³ Playing Pitch Strategy and Audit of Pitch Provision (2015 / 16)

⁴ Playability Audit of Existing Fixed Play Provision (2015)

The **Northern Ireland Changing Gear: Bicycle Strategy** aims to set out progressively how Northern Ireland can be transformed into a place where travelling by bicycle is a healthy, everyday activity. Measures will include improvements to cycling infrastructure in urban areas, rural routes and greenways.



The **Castlereagh Integrated Development Framework (2020)** identifies opportunities for future development and growth, focusing on the main urban centres within the Castlereagh urban area: Carryduff, Forestside and Dundonald. The framework for Dundonald includes improved connections to Moat Park and the Village area by creating a landmark linkage between green spaces and improved connections to Comber Greenway.

3.0 Vision for Green Open Space

3.1 The Vision for Lisburn & Castlereagh's Open Space

It is widely recognised that open spaces, sport and outdoor recreation are essential to encouraging healthier life styles and for the protection of the natural environment in Northern Ireland. The provision of networks of good quality green open space is considered to be of vital importance.

The Lisburn and Castlereagh area contains a wealth of parks, gardens, outdoor sports facilities and other green open spaces. There are also numerous playgrounds spread across the City council area providing children with the opportunities to learn and play in a safe environment.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council hold a number of family fun events in its parks including Moat Park, Dundonald, Wallace Park, Lisburn and Moira Demesne over the summer months with crafts, theatre, music and arts on offer. The 'Park Life' programme consists of events to suit all ages and range from a Natures Kingdom event, a pets' farm to a Teddy Bears Picnic. The parks provide a perfect backdrop for events and are a hugely popular venue for families with annual events such as the Mayor's Family Fun Day and the Halloween Twilight by Fairy Light event and one off events such as the Northern Ireland Armed Forces Day 2019 which attracted in excess of 20,000 visitors to Wallace Park.

The benefits of open space to tourism and recreation are also recognised, for example, the synergies between the potential of Hillsborough Forest Park as a valuable recreational space, working in tandem with the Historic Park, Garden and Demesne of Hillsborough Castle.

For those who desire a more active outdoor sporting activity, the Council provides a wide range of sports facilities and playing fields facilitating numerous sports, as well as bowling greens which are available for hire. The sports pitches include both grass and synthetic pitches and other popular facilities include tennis courts, baseball diamonds and two 18 hole golf courses at Aberdelghy in Lisburn and Castlereagh Hills Golf Club. An artificial cricket wicket was also added at Billy Neill MBE Country Park in 2022.

The vision for open space is built upon the Local Development Plan vision that will help deliver the Plan Objectives in relation to Open Space.

The vision for green open spaces in Lisburn & Castlereagh is that

"The city, towns, villages and suburbs of Lisburn and Castlereagh will enjoy a range of attractive and accessible parks and open spaces close to where people live. "Flagship" parks, greenspaces and play areas will draw local residents and visitors to both urban and rural centres, providing places for social interaction, play, sport, recreation and quality of life for all.

Existing open spaces will be protected and enhanced to diversify urban habitats and extend the green network. Where possible, open spaces will be linked by a network of paths and green corridors to encourage active travel, healthier lifestyles and exploration of the outdoors."

...

3.2 Strategic Principles and Aspirations

The Local Development Plan sets out six Plan Objectives to establish an appropriate balance between improving quality of life, economic prosperity for all, the protection of the Council's environmental assets, and to ensure that development is sustainable in the interests of future generations. The vision for Open Space is built upon the LDP spatial vision, and in particular objectives D, E and F.

- *Objective D: An Attractive Place: Promoting Sustainable Tourism, Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation*
- *Objective E: A Green Place: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic and Natural Environment*
- *Objective F: A Connected Place: Supporting Sustainable Transport and Other Infrastructure*

Evidence suggests that well designed, high quality open spaces are vital in creating healthy and liveable cities, towns and villages. It is recognised that a shared, strategic approach to open space maximises its potential to contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable future. Building on objectives D and E of the LDP, six guiding strategic principles have been set out to help achieve the vision for open space:

1. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being and social benefits to communities

The provision of easily accessible green open spaces close to where we live is vital to encouraging healthier lifestyles and mental wellbeing. Open spaces offer a wide range of opportunities for sport and recreation (dog walking, running, cycling, active play etc.). The benefits of open spaces are also recognised to bring benefits in terms of mental health, wellbeing and happiness.

2. Provide exciting, active and inclusive places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings

Everyone living in the city, towns, villages and suburbs should have access to attractive, good quality play space, providing opportunities for a wide range of users and abilities. A local network of well designed, useable, clean, safe and accessible play spaces that are fit for purpose, well-resourced / managed and meet the needs of the community which benefit our urban and rural settlements.



Royal Hillsborough Village

3. Support and encourage access to high quality green open space close to where people live that meets the needs of different ages, abilities and backgrounds

There is an increasing body of knowledge suggesting that the quality of civic places and open spaces has an impact on how people perceive their neighbourhoods. Higher quality open spaces lead to higher satisfaction levels, greater feelings of safety and

higher levels of activity in the outdoors. Together with the built environment, this helps create a sense of place and creates opportunities for social interaction and community events. Increased footfall in open spaces brings benefits with regard to the perception of safety and increases natural surveillance, which in turn helps to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour.



4. Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride

The Lisburn Castlereagh's Vision for Tourism aims to develop Royal Hillsborough village into a world-class tourist destination, which will increase tourism growth across the whole council area. High quality parks and open spaces, such as Lisburn Castle Gardens, Wallace Park, Moat Park and Hillsborough Forest are tourist attractions, helping retain visitors for longer and increasing visitor spending.

5. Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and reduce and prevent biodiversity loss.

A connected network of diverse open spaces, extending from large woodland ecosystems to small pocket parks, helps sustain habitat networks and enhance biodiversity. Well managed open spaces provide opportunities for diversifying existing landscapes, such as woodlands, wetlands and grasslands and undertaking habitat management to support a variety of plant and animal species. The benefits of such landscapes are extensive, providing attractive and diverse places for recreation and enjoyment of the outdoors.



6. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of green open spaces

Quality green open space within or close to settlements plays a vital role in promoting healthy living and tackling inequality through facilitating play and sporting activities, leading to healthier more active lifestyles. Better connected places (e.g. strategic greenways) support walking, cycling and public transport use. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through development of Active Travel Networks to improve health and well-being support by reducing the need to travel by private car.

4.0 Lisburn and Castlereagh Green Open Spaces

4.1 Lisburn & Castlereagh

Lisburn & Castlereagh stretches from the shores of Lough Neagh in the west to the hills above Dundonald in the east, and from the Belfast Hills in the north to an area close to the source of the River Lagan in the south. The Council covers an area of almost 200 square miles (520 square km).

Belfast as the region's capital city, is recognised as a growing tourism destination, and the attractions of Lisburn and Castlereagh, including Hillsborough Castle and Gardens contribute to the region's visitor numbers. The more local destinations of Hillsborough Forest, Lisburn Castle Gardens, Wallace Park, Moat Park in Dundonald and the Lagan Valley Regional Park also act as a significant tourism draw.



Castle Gardens was once the site of Lisburn Castle in the 17th century and recently restored by LCCC with grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund in June 2008.

The heart of the area is the City of Lisburn, which has a history of Irish linen production during the 19th and 20th centuries and a wealth of parks, gardens, outdoor sports facilities and other open spaces.



The 26 acre **Wallace Park** was gifted to the town by Sir Richard Wallace in 1884 and largely retains its original layout and Victorian character. The park was refurbished in 2012.



Moat Park is situated in the heart of Dundonald and contains a historic Motte and an attractive green oasis, close to the historic Church of St Elizabeth.

The council area has a rich built and natural environment, including the landscapes and architecture of Hillsborough Castle and Gardens and the rolling drumlin topography, woodlands and farmland of the Lagan Valley Regional Park.



Hillsborough Castle and Forest provide a heritage destination hub, providing access to the historic house, gardens and castle. The nearby forest (200 acres) has a network of waymarked routes around the forest



Moira Demesne is located in the picturesque village of Moira, comprising of over 40 acres of parkland with beautiful walkways, play and sports facilities.

The **Lagan Valley Regional Park** (established in 1967) is often described as the 'jewel in the crown' of the Lisburn City & Castlereagh Council area.

Making up 2,116 hectares of riverside land between Lisburn and Belfast, the Park is a vital connective corridor for both wildlife and people. The towpath – a walking and cycling path running alongside the River Lagan - is the busiest Active Travel Route in Northern Ireland. In 2020, it was the most visited outdoor attraction in Northern Ireland. Almost 2 million people used it to commute or to make the most of its green space, access to nature and sites of historical importance.



As the Regional Park is managed jointly Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Belfast City Council, it has an independent staff team, Board and a dedicated group of volunteers who support conservation efforts and deliver on its long-term strategy to protect the Lagan Valley Regional Park for future generations and for the well-being of our community.

It hosts regular events to encourage local people to access nature and to discover some of the biodiversity and archaeological treasures which make their home there.

4.2 Type of Green Open Space

The SPPS recognises that green open space, whether or not there is access to it, is important for its contribution to the quality of urban life by providing important green lungs, visual breaks and wildlife habitats in built-up areas. This strategy focuses on the open spaces that are on the land only and eight open space typologies have been used, each having a variety of uses and secondary uses / characteristics.

Each open space audit site has been assigned an identification reference, a name, location, typology and type, as set out in the table below and include publicly accessible sites. A GIS shape file has been prepared for the open spaces included in the audit, to which the site survey data will be attached. Each open space audit site has been allocated a typology.

The types of open spaces are further expanded in Table 1.



Table 1: Green Open Space Typology The following categories have been allocated in the LCCC open space database:

Open Space Type	Sub-type	Description
Parks & Gardens	Regional Park	Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) is Northern Ireland's first and only Regional Park. The LVRP was established in 1967 as one of three unique semi-urban designations in the UK at that time. The Park is located between Stranmillis, Belfast and Union locks, Lisburn and covers some 4,200 acres of countryside and eleven miles of riverbank. Provides a major leisure facility, with a wide catchment of users, often travelling long distances by car and or public transport for a 'family day out'.
	City Park / Historic Park <i>1.6km walking catchment (approx. 20min walk)</i>	Parks such as Moira Demesne which are large areas of parkland of significant size, offering a combination of facilities and heritage features at the sub-regional level. The parks draw visitors to the town / city, are accessible by public transport and contain superior quality of facilities.
	Town Park <i>1200m walking catchment (approx. 15min walk)</i>	Large to medium sized areas of open space that provide a variety of activities and natural features, including sports facilities, children's play for all ages, informal recreation, gardens and seating areas.
	Local Park <i>400m walking catchment (approx. 5min walk)</i>	These parks are small areas of open space, and may contain children's play, seating, courts or pitches and nature conservation areas. They are often well used parks within walking distance of the immediate residential area.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	All Outdoor Sports	Sports facilities with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned. Including tennis courts, bowling greens, sport pitches, golf courses, athletic tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas, which are generally bookable.
	Indoor Facilities	
	Other Outdoor Provision	
	Playing Pitches	
	Golf Course	
Amenity Green Space		Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses including informal recreation spaces, communal green spaces in and around housing, and village greens.
Equipped / Designated Play Area	Flagship Play Areas <i>1.6km walking catchment (approx. 20min walk)</i> <i>*SLD 1,000m</i>	Flagship play park, combining traditional play concepts with state of the art equipment for an easily accessible yet entertainingly challenging play experience. Containing, often themed equipment suitable for 2 to 10 years.
	Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) <i>1,000m walking catchment (approx. 13min walk)</i> <i>*SLD 600m</i>	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children (aged 12+ years), but also with play opportunities for younger children. May include kickabout areas, Multi Use Games Area, skateboard parks and outdoor basketball hoops).
	Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) <i>400m walking catchment (approx. 5min walk)</i> <i>*SLD 240m</i>	Local Equipped Area for Play, aimed at children who are beginning to go out to play independently (aged 5 – 12 years), close to where they live. May include opportunity for informal recreation.
Community Greenway		Designated segregated walking and cycling routes identified in the RDS 2035. They are primarily active travel corridors, but will play an increasingly important role, allowing people to move safely between open spaces, to destinations in the city and out to the countryside and are designated through the LDP.
Natural & Semi Natural Greenspace		Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodlands, urban forestry, grasslands (e.g. meadows), wetlands, open and running water.
Allotments	Allotments and Community Gardens	Allotments and areas of land for growing fruit and vegetables, or a community garden.
Cemeteries	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Includes cemeteries and churchyards.

* SLD Straight Line Distance

4.3 Quantity and Distribution of Open Space

This section provides an analysis of different open space typologies across the council area. It has been generated by compiling spatial data primarily from the 2019 Open Space Audit, with additional information from LCCC mapping data for golf courses, Cemeteries and Community Greenways, which were not included in the Open Space Audit.

The LCCC area contains **1,209.85 ha** of open space. The table opposite summarises the supply of specific open space typologies across the LCCC Council area.

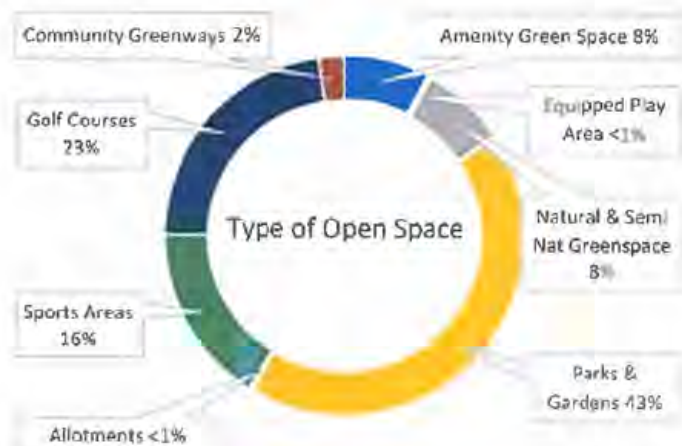


Chart 1: Different Types of Green Open Space (see table 2)

Table 2: Existing Green Open Space included in the Open Space Audit

Open Space Type	Sub-type	Number of sites	Area (ha)
Parks & Gardens	Regional Park	1	-
	City Park / Historic Park	3	16.11
	Town Park	11	441.83
	Local Park	12	18.05
Total Parks		26	475.99
Outdoor Sports Facilities	All Outdoor Sports	13	21.24
	Indoor Facilities	13	5.23
	Other Outdoor Provision	5	2.32
	Playing Pitches	63	150.81
Total Outdoor Sports		94	179.60
	Golf Courses	6	251.46*
Amenity Green Space	Amenity Green Space	162	84.69
Equipped / Designated Play Area	Flagship Play Areas	5	0.80
	Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP)	8	0.49
	Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP)	36	2.01
Total Play Areas		49	3.30
Natural & Semi Natural Greenspace	Natural & Semi Natural Greenspace	14	85.14
	Community Greenways	10	25.61*
Allotments & Community Gardens	Allotments & Community Gardens	3	2.55
Cemeteries		10	101.51*
Total Open Space		377	1,209.85 ha

Note: The figures in the table above marked with a * have been derived from LCCC Open Space database. The Regional Park has not been included in the calculations.

The map below illustrates the provision of the various types of green open space and the quality of provision in Dundonald.

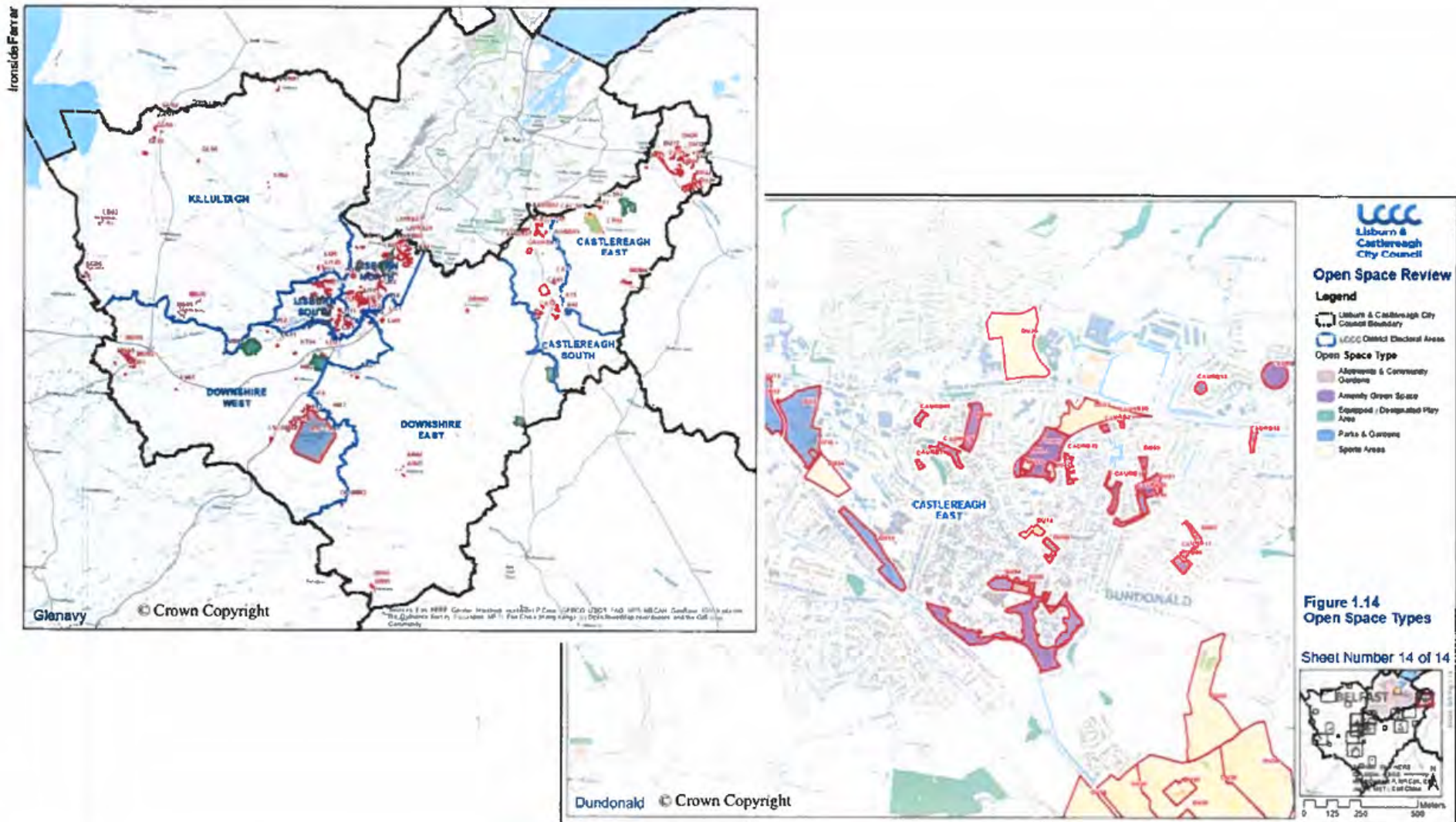
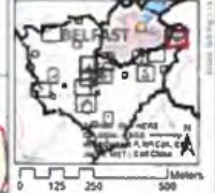


Figure 1.14
Open Space Types

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Fields in Trust Standards

The SPPS sets out a policy aspiration to meet the National Playing Field Association (NPFA) 'six-acre standard', a target of **2.4 hectares per 1,000 people** comprising of 1.6 hectares suitable for outdoor sports and recreation and 0.8 hectares for children's play space. We are committed to protecting our existing open space and we will use benchmarking as a reference to help inform future investment and improvements in our open space network.

In 2015, FiT⁵ replaced the 'six-acre standard' with more comprehensive metrics for open space typologies. Where appropriate a comparison has been outlined on Table 3. The FiT standard also sets out provision for 1.8 hectares per 1,000 people of natural and semi-natural spaces, which has not been assessed as part of this strategy.

A separate exercise was undertaken by LCCC to establish whether the council open space provision meets the FiT standards. Figures from the LCCC Open Space database, as illustrated in Table 3, demonstrate that Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's overall open space provision exceeds the FiT benchmark.

Settlements included in the audit vary considerably in their size, number of open spaces and quantity of open space. The quantity assessment, undertaken by LCCC, indicates that Downshire East and Killultagh DEAs have smaller quantities of open space in comparison with the other DEAs. The size and the availability of Council owned land has a bearing on the quantity of open space in these smaller settlements. However, provision of high quality equipped open spaces can address these shortfalls.

Publicly accessible playing field provision is lower than the benchmark. Play area provision, and other outdoor provision, particularly MUGAs, is lower than the FiT benchmark. However, it is important to note that this typology is not directly comparable, as the FiT benchmark also includes local areas for play (LAPs), which are accounted for in the amenity green space typology in Lisburn and Castlereagh. It is also important to highlight that although not equipped, we provide significant areas of open space for informal play within our parks. Lisburn and Castlereagh's amenity space provision is also higher than the FiT benchmark and is likely to be higher still, as it has not been possible to map all amenity space in this assessment.

Table 3: LCCC Open Space provision and the FiT benchmark

FiT Category	FiT Standard per 1000 people (ha)	LCCC Total (ha)	LCCC per 1000 people (ha)
All Pitches	1.2	93.3 (Public)	0.69
		64.08 (Private/School)	0.47
		157.38 (Total)	1.16 (Total)
All Outdoor Sports	1.6	1.92	0.01
Equipped Play Areas	0.25	5.13	0.04
Other Outdoor Provision	0.3	20.66	0.15
Parks & Gardens	0.8	466.38*	3.44
Amenity Greenspace	0.6	81.21	0.60
Natural & Semi Natural Greenspace	1.8	221.85	1.64

Note: The figures in the table above have been derived from LCCC Open Space database. * Figure includes Hillsborough Forest Park (388.1ha)

⁵ <http://www.fieldsintrust.org>

4.4 Quality of Green Open Space

Quality is a key component of open space. Green open spaces need to be “fit for purpose” and serve local communities by providing a level of service and functional provision to meet informal leisure and recreational needs. The quality assessment was based on the recommendations included in the “Greenspace Quality: A Guide to Assessment, Planning and Strategic Development” (2008). Summary data is contained in the LCCC Open Space Audit.

The City of Lisburn, towns and villages currently have mostly good provision of open space, ranging from formal parks and playing fields to woodlands and green corridors associated with paths, cycleways and waterways. There are excellent examples of high quality historic parks, “flagship” play areas and attractive woodlands and riverside paths.

Chart 2 summarises the number of sites in each of the quality bands. Approximately half of the sites scored between 65% and 91% (136 out of 278 sites). The average quality score was 65%. There are 30 sites that scored between 50 and 54, and only 5 sites that scored between 44-49. The quality scores ranged from 44% (Willow Gardens, Lisburn North) to the highest score of 91% (both Moira Demesne and Wallace Park), with the majority of sites scoring in the 50s, 60s and 70s.

The settlements of Moira, Stoneyford, Moneyreagh, Ballyskeagh and Royal Hillsborough have the highest average quality scores. Lisburn contains 9 out of 20 of the worst scoring open space sites, but it also includes 12 out of the 20 top scoring open spaces. Drumlough, Halftown, Upper Broomhedge, Lurganville and Ravernet are the settlements with the lowest average quality scores. There may be opportunity for partnership working within the

Community Planning framework to improve open space in these areas, where the Housing Executive have housing stock.

The graph below demonstrates that the majority of LCCC open spaces included in the open space audit scored 50% and above, with only 5 not considered fit for purpose. There is opportunity to improve the quality of these sites, and to improve the quality of some of the lower quality parks and amenity greenspaces.

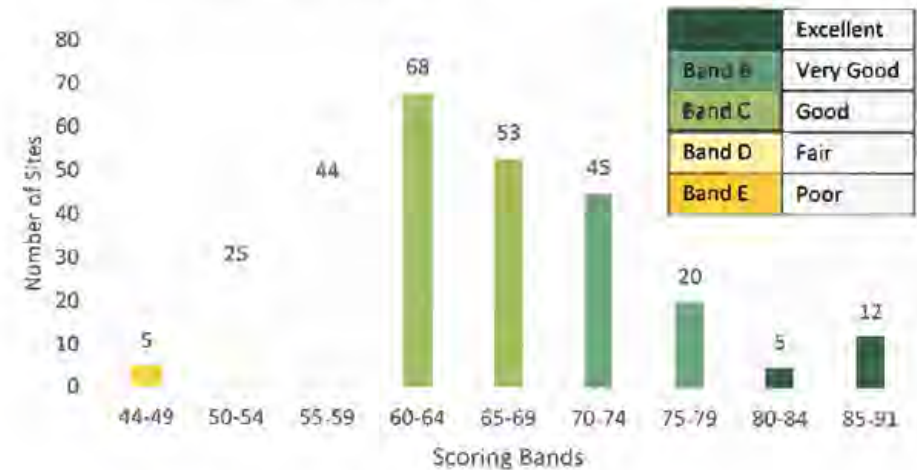


Chart 2: Quality Scores in the Bands

Calculating an average quality score for each settlement can give an indication of overall quality of open space in a settlement. The DEA with the highest average quality score is Downshire West and the DEA with the lowest average quality score is Lisburn South.

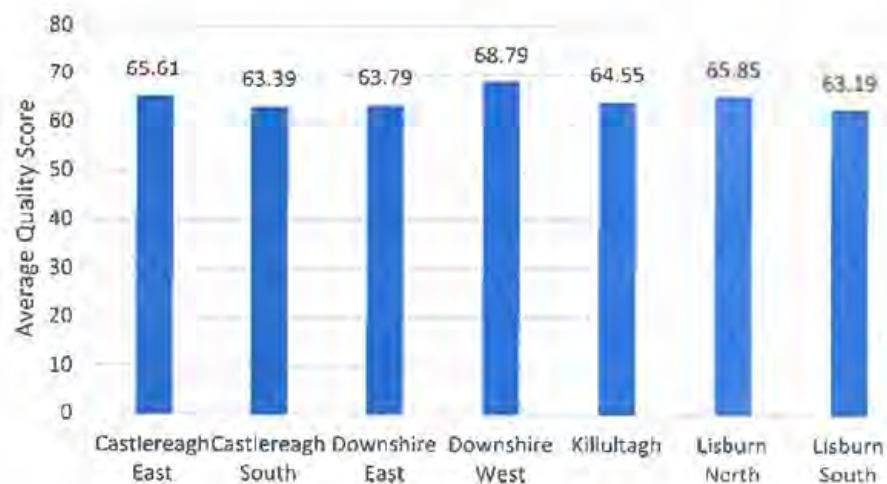


Chart 3: Average quality score per DEA

The settlements with the lower scoring sites have been considered in more detail to identify which sites could be improved with regards to quality of the open space. A summary of the analysis of the audit findings is contained in Chapter 5.

Even since compiling this data, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has identified and progressed a number of projects to enhance accessibility and biodiversity and raise the quality of these areas for the benefit of its citizens.

Examples include:

- Additional new play parks at Tonagh, Dungoyne and Hydebank
- Refurbished play parks at Grove and Halftown
- 2.25 km of accessible walkways to create Glenmore Parkland Trail (formerly Deadwall Plantation)
- 1 km orbital trail at Hydebank Playing Fields
- Six dog exercise areas
- Creation of Annahilt Community Garden
- Refurbishment of Killeaton Open Space
- Restoration of Derrigahy Glen ancient woodland

4.5 Green Open Space Accessibility

Access is a key component of open space. Green open spaces need to serve local communities and deliver locally accessible open space providing a local resource that addresses daily needs, supports access by walking, cycling, horse riding and public transport, supports unsupervised use with safe accessibility and promotes informal recreation and exercise (dog walking, health walking or general passive use).

The Councils Parks & Amenities Unit has worked in close partnership with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) over the last 4 years to identify potential locations throughout its parks to install tactile maps with information in braille to enhance the visitor experience for people with impaired sight.



Pictured at the launch (May 2021) of the tactile map at McIlroy Park (L-R), Stephen Strong (RNIB Volunteer), Gavin McBride (DfC) and Alderman Michael Henderson MBE (LCCC)

Each map is carefully designed to combine both visual and tactile elements that results in an “access for all” map that is a mix of layers, colours with good visual contrast, textures, large print (which is also raised), braille lettering, tactile and visual symbols.

International research into the impacts of greenspace on health and on wider quality of life shows that having greenspace within a 5 minute walk of home is a strong indicator for health and quality of life benefits. 0.5 hectares is big enough for a ‘kick about’ pitch or other informal play. Generally, in urban design, a 5 minute walk is considered to equate to a distance of 400 metres ‘door to space’.

The open spaces included in the Audit were mapped and the following accessibility standards applied:

Table 4: Open Space Accessibility Standards

Open Space Type	Accessibility Standard
City Park / Historic Park	1.6km walking catchment (approx. 20min walk)
Town Park	1200m walking catchment (approx. 15min walk)
Local Park	400m walking catchment (approx. 5min walk)
Flagship Play Area	1.6km walking catchment (approx. 20min walk)
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP)	1,000m walking catchment (approx. 13min walk)
Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP)	400m walking catchment (approx. 5min walk)

Parks & Gardens

Lisburn North and South

The City of Lisburn is well served in terms of City Parks / Historic Parks, which is dispersed throughout the residential areas. These City Parks include Wallace Park, Duncan's Park and Castle Gardens and provide a range of high quality recreational, sporting and play opportunities, set within a historic park setting. The urban open space is further enhanced by access to the countryside and the Belfast Hills to the north and the Lagan Valley Regional Park to the south, which connects the city to Castlereagh and Belfast.



There are also two Town Parks in the City, including Barbour Memorial Playing Fields and Magheralave Road Green Space. There are 5 Local Parks, including Lambeg Park, Tom Robinson Park, Grand Street, Maralin Avenue / Drumbeg Drive and Sir Milne Barbour Memorial Park. Many of these parks contain equipped children's play areas, providing formal and informal play space for children and young people. Wallace Park and the Queen Elizabeth

II Playing Fields contain Flagship play areas, which combine traditional play concepts with state of the art equipment for an easily accessible yet entertainingly challenging play experience. The park provision is supplemented by a range of sports areas, natural / semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace, which is evenly distributed throughout the city and of overall high quality.

The Derriaghy, Kilmakee and Dunmurry areas of Lisburn have a good spread of open space throughout the area. Derriaghy contains Bell's Lane local park. The area has a good spread of amenity greenspace and play facilities throughout.



Castlereagh East

Dundonald is well served with regards to the accessibility of parks and play space in the town. The Billy Neill MBE Country Park (Green Flag winner) is located in Dundonald and the Comber Greenway passes through the site. Moat Park town park, with its flagship play area provides high quality well equipped open space.

Castlereagh South

The Four Winds area has an under provision of park space, with Colby Park being the only local park. Hydebank and Cairnshill playing fields provide a well used open space resource as does Carryduff Park and Lough Moss in the Carryduff area. There is limited play space in the surrounding residential areas, with 5 LEAPs and 1 NEAP in the area. There are planned residential developments in the south east of the settlement, which include play provision.

Downshire East

All the villages in Downshire East contain areas of open space, providing areas of recreational space and play facilities. Dromara contains a Town Park (Lagan Park).

*Downshire West*

The two main towns within the Downshire West DEA, Royal Hillsborough and Moira have good levels of very high-quality open space, providing a range of facilities for sport, recreation and play. There is a Town Park (Hillsborough Fort) and a Local Park (Hillsborough Park), a Flagship play area (LEAP) easily accessible from adjacent residential areas. Moira Demesne provides high quality park facilities for the town and visitors to the area.

Killultagh

All the villages in Killultagh DEA contain areas of open space, providing areas of recreational space and play facilities. Local parks are provided in Maghaberry (Maghaberry Village Green and Maghaberry Road Community Centre) and Stoneyford (Stoneyford Road Green Space).

By way of example, the maps below illustrate the quality of provision in Dundonald and the provision of the various types of open space in Lisburn South DEAs. Maps for each DEA are provided within the Local Development Plan Technical Supplement 7 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation.

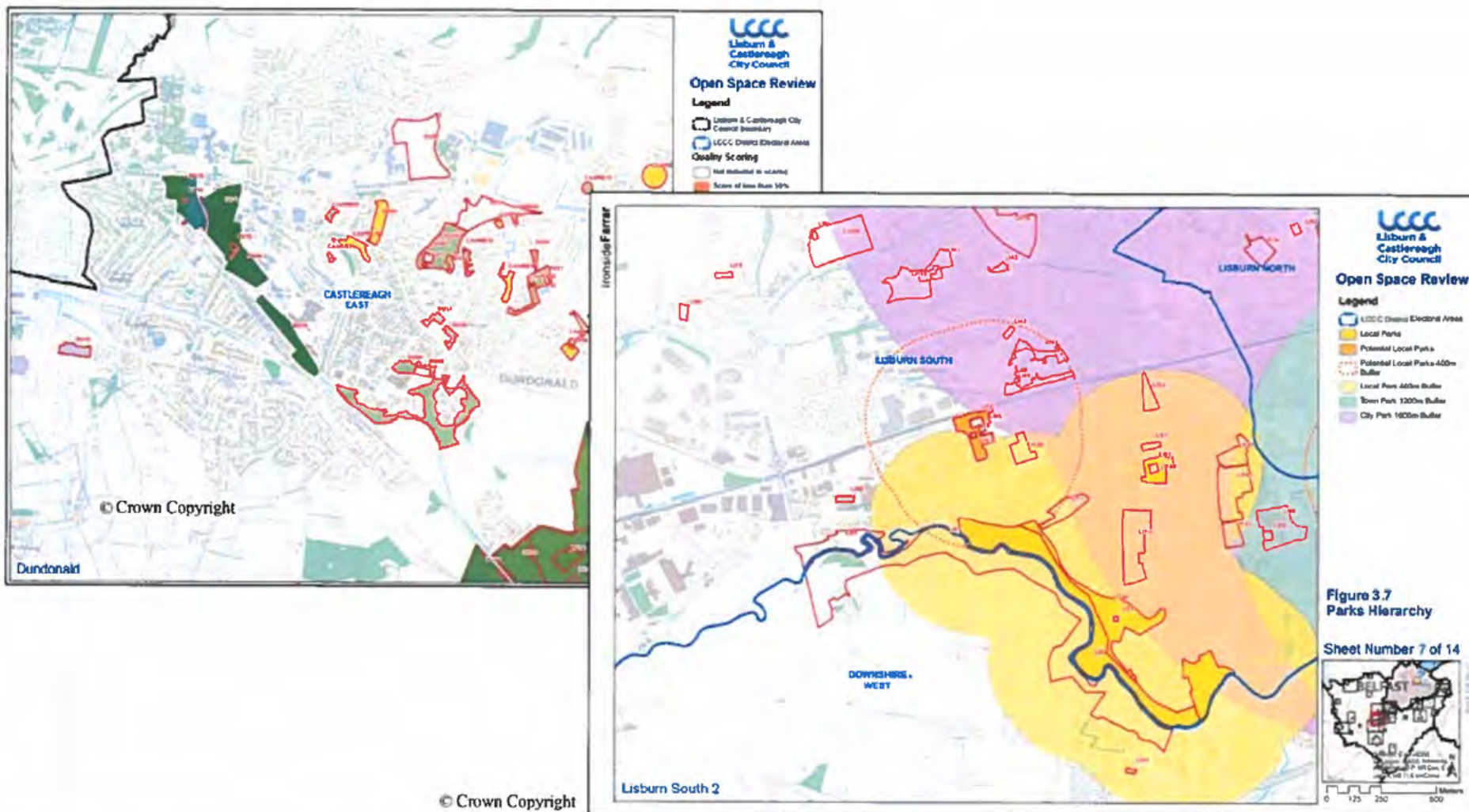


Figure 3.7 Parks Hierarchy

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Sports Facilities

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council owns and maintains a large variety of open space, sport and outdoor recreational areas throughout the Council area. Most of these are located within Lisburn City, the towns and villages and includes all council owned and privately owned facilities that are open to the public. There are also privately-owned playing fields including those belonging to Lisnagarvey Hockey Club and Carryduff GAC and other areas of open space including private playing fields in the education sector and grassland areas, glens, parks, walkways and casual play areas located within housing areas.

In 2015, LCCC commissioned an Audit of Pitch Provision and Preparation of a Playing Pitches Strategy, based on best practice guidance developed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation. The Playing Pitch Model requires focused research on supply, demand and quality to assess adequacy of provision for matches. Supply of and demand for pitches was assessed for the Council area as a whole for each of the following five sports: Association football, Gaelic sports, Hockey, Rugby and Cricket.

The audit concluded there are 60 clubs operating 414 teams across the five sports in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area during the period of the review. The project included the preparation of an inventory of all known pitches for the five sports in the Council area. The summary shows there are 108 pitches suited to competition at some level across the five sports. Adequacy of provision across the Council area for each sport is good overall.

Association football is well provided for with regards to SSG (U11,U12), Junior and adult pitches. There is an under-supply of Small Sided Games pitches for the younger age group, but this is

mitigated by accessing junior pitches on a Saturday morning. Gaelic sports has an adequate supply of pitches for adults but an undersupply of 1No. pitch for Go Games & Junior Pitches. Hockey has an over supply of pitches for both adult and juniors. As does Rugby. Cricket has an adequate supply for junior pitches but a shortfall of 2No. pitches for adults.

Equipped Play Areas

The amalgamation of the two legacy councils in April 2015 brought with it an existing portfolio of outdoor, fixed equipment play areas which range in size from Local Areas for Play (LAP's), Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP's) and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP's). In total 46 fixed play areas transferred into the new LCCC area on April 1st 2015, with an additional play area opened in the autumn of 2015 at Killynure Park, Carryduff.



Maghberry Road Play Area

There are numerous playgrounds spread across the Lisburn and Castlereagh area providing children with the opportunities to learn and play in a safe environment. Over the last year the council has opened several new purpose built play areas across the council area, an example being the new multi-purpose play facility River

Road Play Park at Seymour Hill, Lisburn, developed in consultation with local community groups and housing association.

Flagship Play Areas include:

- Wallace Park, Lisburn
- Moira Demesne, Moira
- Hillsborough Forest Play Park, Royal Hillsborough
- Queen Elizabeth II Play Park
- Moat Park, Dundonald

Greenways

Community Greenways (as they are termed in the existing Development Plan) seek to re-establish links between the countryside and urban areas of open space such as parks, playing fields and natural areas to create a network of open spaces. These local-scale community greenways provide places for recreation and exercise alongside opportunities for pedestrian and cycle routes as well as wildlife habitats. Both publicly owned open space and private land are included, even where public access is not permitted. Such green space can provide important linkages and visual amenity within the urban area.

Community Greenways provide recreational links, an ecological / environmental linkage and offer a source of visual / recreational amenity. These designations are carried forward from the existing development plan, however further work in reviewing existing and future community greenways will be undertaken as part of the Local Policies Plan.

Strategic Greenways, as identified in the Department for Infrastructure's Strategic Greenway Plan, are also being considered as part of the Open Space Strategy, in terms of how the community

greenways link to these and provide alternative routes to travel instead of reliance on the private car.

Sustrans has been commissioned to prepare a 15 year Active Travel Strategy and accompanying mapping for the Council area.

Natural & Semi Natural Greenspace

Trees and woodland contribute significantly to the natural environment and blue / green infrastructure networks. They have a number of important benefits, including creating a varied and attractive landscape, and defining a sense of place. Trees can help screen and integrate development, provide wildlife habitats, contribute to the health and well-being of society, reduce air pollution, provide shade and mitigate flood risk.



The Lisburn & Castlereagh Journey to Sustainability.

Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded regions in Europe with less than 9% woodland cover. This is lower than the Republic of Ireland (11%), the UK (13%) and European Union (38%). Within Northern Ireland, the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC)

area has the lowest levels of tree cover. With trees playing a vital role in tackling climate change and supporting wildlife, it is vital that tree cover is increased within the Council area. In 2022, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council were successful in its application to the Emergency Tree Fund to establish a naïve tree nursery with the aim of planting 192,000 trees over a three year period on a combination of land owned by the council and other public and private landowners whilst engaging with all major stakeholders via a Council led steering group and positively engaging with all local communities.

The project aims to be financially self-sustaining within 2 years and boast a number of strands including the establishment of a volunteer network, creation of UKISG accredited tree nursery and ancient woodland restoration projects. The Council is currently working on publication of its Tree Management Strategy.

Allotments & Community Gardens

There are currently 3 public allotments in the LCCC area⁶. Bells Lane Allotments in Derriaghy were reopened in 2019 after a £290,000 refurbishment. Visitors can now enjoy a newly developed meeting space with a covered area and benches, additional parking bays and toilets with disabled and baby changing facilities. The hub also features kitchen facilities, a garden shed, poly tunnel and raised beds to accommodate a calendar of demonstrations and activities for schools and community groups in the Lisburn Castlereagh area.

Future allotment provision will be based on demand for provision of additional facilities. Further study is required to assess need and demand for facilities

Cemeteries

The maintenance of cemeteries in the Council area is a statutory responsibility of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. Currently Belfast City Council manage and maintain Roselawn Cemetery and Crematorium (Green Flag winner) which lies within the Council area.



The Council is currently exploring a range of options to expand cemetery provision for LCCC, including the consideration of sub regional options with neighbouring councils in relation to identifying future need requirements. Should a collective need be established through collaboration, such provision could be appraised to enable a more joined-up approach. If a need is identified for the requirement of additional cemetery provision, the LDP will take account of this, zoning sufficient lands where appropriate at Local Policies Plan stage.

⁶ Bell's Lane Allotments, Milltown Avenue Allotments & Jubilee Allotments, Dundonald

5.0 Green Open Space Recommendations

5.1 Delivery of the Strategic Principles

To ensure that Lisburn and Castlereagh's parks and open spaces are fit for the future, the following headline actions for the next five years (2022 - 2026) have been agreed to deliver the Green Open Space Strategy Vision:

1. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being and social benefits to communities

- Recognise the importance of good quality green open space, sport and outdoor recreation provision on the health & well-being of residents and explore opportunities for further enhancing this provision.
- Review planning policy with a view to protecting existing open spaces and the connecting links / paths.
- Continue to invest in new green open space provision where possible across the area addressing any quantity / quality deficiencies (e.g. Downshire East and Killultagh where multi-use open spaces could be developed on the existing LCCC estate where land for new open space is limited.)
- Ensure that all development masterplans include the creation of high quality new open space / enhancement of existing open space, and access improvements to inform Section 76 developer contribution agreements.
- Continue to provide facilities that encourage participation in sport and recreation (dog walking, running, cycling, active play etc.)
- Develop a programme of activity focused on using green open spaces to improve health and wellbeing.

2. Provide exciting, active and inclusive places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings

- Address the gaps in opportunities for formal play, identified in the Play Strategy, ensuring at all communities have access to fixed play provision catering for children and teenagers of all ages, close to where they live.
- Ensure that all play facilities are fit for purpose, well-resourced / managed and meet the needs of the community, catering for people of all abilities.
- Identify and create opportunities for natural and informal play in existing parks, open spaces and semi-natural spaces.
- Work with communities and stakeholders and the education sector to encourage more outdoor learning.

3. Support and encourage access to high quality green open space close to where people live that meets the needs of different ages, abilities and backgrounds

- Continue to maintain, invest and source funding to keep our open spaces, play and sports facilities well maintained.
- Actively support the development of a sustainable approach to the management and promotion of all types of open space.
- Ensure the development of existing and new open spaces applies good design principles to create safe, well lit spaces, which have good levels of natural surveillance and linkages.
- Facilitate involvement in the management of open spaces by partnership working with Friends' groups and community groups.
- Continue to provide and fund a range of community events and activities in our open spaces.
- Promote the use of open spaces through the provision of walking/ cycling maps, open space connections and blue/green networks.
- Provide recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities, including addressing the specific needs of older people.

4. Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride

- Recognise the importance of our high quality parks and open spaces (e.g. Lisburn Castle Gardens, Wallace Park, Moat Park and Hillsborough Forest) as part of the tourism offer of the area.
- Explore opportunities along Lisburn's Lagan Corridor for extending access and circulation to the towpath and the wider river and canal environs that have the potential to become an attraction for tourists and residents alike.
- In partnership with stakeholder and community groups, seek to plan and fund the restoration of heritage assets in open spaces.
- Celebrate the heritage value and culture of our heritage parks through the encouragement of community events, guided heritage walks and civic celebrations.

5. Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change and reduce and prevent biodiversity loss

- Protect and manage the existing open space networks to enhance native biodiversity, support wildlife, provide measures to mitigate climate change and meet the objectives of the LBAP.
- Develop planning policies and management practices that protect sensitive habitats and areas of ecological importance.
- Work with Northern Ireland Water's 'Living with Water Programme' (LwWP) to identify opportunities to manage drainage and reduce flood risk, for example through SuDS schemes.
- Identify opportunities to diversify existing landscapes (e.g. woodlands, wetlands and grasslands) to support a variety of plant and animal species.
- Extend urban green networks through the 'greening up' of buildings and civic spaces and the planting of street trees.
- Identify opportunities to adopt more sustainable maintenance

methods (e.g. wildflower planting, composting, tree management).

- Work to educate our future generations, grow capacity within our communities and encourage active participation to enhance our environment.

6. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of green open spaces

- Identify specific opportunities within neighbourhoods to enhance and improve access to existing open spaces through the development of a Blue / Green Network Strategy, identifying missing path links and potential upgrades of existing routes.
- Improve the legibility of open spaces which support walking, cycling and wheeling as a means of getting around, through the provision of networks of high quality paths and infrastructure (e.g. path surface, lighting, signage and street furniture).
- Continue to work in partnership with Sustrans, Lagan Valley Regional Park, Lagan Navigation Trust and the Department for Infrastructure to develop the Strategic Greenways and strategic path routes (e.g. West Lisburn to Moira Greenway, Carryduff Greenway, Comber Greenway, Lagan Towpath).
- Creation of new paths and linkages, either through:
 - Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 (Public Path Creation Agreement or Public Path Order)
 - Recreation and Youth Services (NI) Order 1986 (Permissive Paths)
- Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through development of Active Travel Networks to improve health and well-being support by reducing the need to travel by private car.
- Explore better linkages between communities and the large areas of open space within the countryside (e.g. Lagan Valley Regional Park, National Trust site at Lisnabreeny, access to Belfast Hills.)

6.0 Next Steps

6.1 Delivery of the Action Plan

The Open Space Audit has been used to inform the Action Plan recommendations and will inform area-based working, prioritisation and planning.

The Action Plan will be reviewed on a two yearly cycle, identifying the tasks required for implementation of the Strategy, in conjunction with Service Plans and the Community Plan. A mid-term review of the Open Space Strategy will be undertaken, along with stakeholder and community consultation on the selection of priority projects.

6.2 Working with Communities

The Strategy will aim to achieve effective community involvement through consultation, encouraging a sense of public 'ownership' and stewardship, through involvement in the design and management of major open space developments, ongoing improvements and specific open space issues. The Council will encourage and support the formation of local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" groups to support the enhancement of open spaces.

The Council will continue to support the use of open spaces by local groups and organisations for holding appropriate local events and activities. We will continue to promote within wider community education initiatives the awareness of the value and benefits of open spaces to help tackle anti-social behaviour and vandalism and reinforce community responsibility.

6.3 Partnership Working

Joint working between the public and the private sector will be promoted and could be facilitated through the Community Planning and Local Development Plan processes. Data sharing amongst public bodies and a partnership approach will allow a better understanding of public open space in the Council areas and enable opportunities and challenges to be identified.

6.4 Monitoring and Review

The Open Spaces (Green) Strategy will be delivered alongside our partners and stakeholders, with the council playing a key leadership and co-ordination role. The Action Plan will be monitored to review the implementation of the Strategy tasks and targets to inform a future review of the Open Spaces (Green) Strategy.

Although the strategy sets out what we intend to do over the next five years, some of the actions will be longer term and will be taken forward into the next delivery plan. We also recognise the importance of being flexible and adapting to new challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Appendix 1 Action Plan for Delivering the Strategy

The following tables contain recommendations that have been identified from the Open Space Audit Mapping & Assessment and from the consultation with stakeholders / online consultation:

Table 5: Lisburn North Recommendations

Reference	Site Name	Settlement	Recommendation	Delivery Agent	Priority (H/M/L)
LIURB21	Riverbank	Lisburn	Play upgrade and improve landscape quality of the site.	LCCC	Medium
LI98	Magheralave Road	Lisburn	Extension to Duncan's Park. Improve landscape quality of the site.	LCCC	Low
LI12	Hill Street / River Lagan Green Space	Lisburn	<p>Improve planting, upgrade paths, signage and seating. Upgrade to a local park.</p> <p>COMPLETED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community tree planting project – 5,000 trees • New path connecting to Towpath • Play park refurbishment • Mini football pitch created • Community group storage unit supplied 	LCCC	Low
LSCS03	Bell's Lane Park	Lisburn	<p>Improve quality to over 65%</p> <p>UPDATE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded Green Flag status • Paths to be resurfaced in Phase 1 of Council wide programme 	LCCC	Low
LI122	Glenmore Activity Centre	Lisburn	<p>Creation of a path network around Deadwall Plantation.</p> <p>COMPLETED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenmore Parkland Trail Phases 1 & 2 • 2.25 km of new paths created • Extensive tree and wild flower planting 	LCCC	Low

	Killeaton Open Space	Lisburn	Refurbishment and biodiversity works needed UPDATE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive tree maintenance and replanting completed • Native hedge row restored • Gates, bins and fencing replaced • New disability access path and flood defences to be installed in 2022 	LCCC	Low
	Derriaghy Glen	Lisburn	Refurbishment and biodiversity works needed UPDATE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of ancient woodland planned in 2022 • Removal of invasive species • Disability access to be improved 	LCCC	Low
	Wallace Pk	Lisburn	Refurbishment of Wallace Pk play park – flagship	LCCC	High

Table 6: Lisburn South Recommendations

Reference	Site Name	Settlement	Recommendation	Delivery Agent	Priority (H/M/L)
LI78 & LI129	Nettlehill Road	Lisburn	Install a new play area and improved landscape planting.	LCCC	Medium
LI75	Grove Activity Centre	Lisburn	Improve quality to over 65% COMPLETED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbished play park 	LCCC	Medium
LI75 & LI13	Grove Activity Centre	Lisburn	Improve planting and landscape quality. Upgrade to a local park.	LCCC	Medium
LI34	The Green, Tonagh	Lisburn	Provide a LEAP in the Park COMPLETED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New play park installed 	LCCC	Low

LI102	Duncan's Park / Stockdam Glen	Lisburn	A separate community consultation is underway.	LCCC	Low
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Table 7: Castlereagh East Recommendations

Reference	Site Name	Settlement	Recommendation	Delivery Agent	Priority (H/M/L)
DU03	Dungoyne Park	Dundonald	Upgrade to a local park. Provide a LEAP in the Park COMPLETED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New play park installed 	LCCC	Medium
RY01	Ryan Park Greenspace 1	Ryan Park	Landscape planting, install seating and improve the overall quality of the site.	LCCC	High
DU22	Billy Neill MBE Country Park	Dundonald	The planting of 20,000 native species trees at Billy Neill Country Park in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. COMPLETED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20,000 trees planted • New artificial cricket wicket installed 	LCCC	Low

Table 8: Castlereagh South Recommendations

Reference	Site Name	Settlement	Recommendation	Delivery Agent	Priority (H/M/L)
CAURB31	Colby Park South	Newtownbreda	Improve quality to over 65% COMPLETED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbished play park • Paths to be resurfaced in Phase 2 of Council wide programme 	LCCC	Low
CAURB03	Breda Terrace Green Space	Newtownbreda	Paths, planting, play trail, seats and improved quality. Upgrade to a local park.	LCCC	Medium
CAURB27	Hydebank Playing Fields	Newtownbreda	Upgrade to a local park COMPLETED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New play park installed 	LCCC	Low

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New orbital trail installed • Additional car parking and dog exercise area to be added 2023 		
CA12	Lands Surrounding Lough Moss	Carryduff	<p>Upgrade to a local park. There are plans to create a community garden and path network at Lough Moss.</p> <p>UPDATE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 wetlands and planting completed • Orbital path completed • Phase 2 community garden and youth games area – STARTED Jan 2023 	LCCC	Low
	Carryduff Park	Carryduff	Creation of linkages to Saintfield Road and Baronsgrange development	LCCC / Developer	Low

Table 9: Downshire East Recommendations

Reference	Site Name	Settlement	Recommendation	Delivery Agent	Priority (H/M/L)
DRU02	Front Road Pitch	Drumbo	Install orbital path around pitch for public exercise area	LCCC	Medium
LI14	Ashmount Gardens Open Space	Hillhall	Work with community group to define future works on this site	LCCC	Low
	Annahilt Pre-School	Annahilt	<p>Lease land from NIHE to enable wider community use</p> <p>COMPLETED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New community garden installed 	LCCC / NIHE	Medium
	Hydebank Wood	Purdysburn	Lease land from DoJ to enable greater community access	LCCC / DoJ	Low
	Ravernet Footpath	Ravernet	Creation of safe walking link to A1 at Sprucefield	LCCC / DfI	Low

Table 10: Downshire West Recommendations

Reference	Site Name	Settlement	Recommendation	Delivery Agent	Priority (H/M/L)
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HT01	Coronation Gardens	Halftown	Improve quality to over 65% COMPLETED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbished play park • Benches installed at Lower Maze 	LCCC	Low
LSCOU02	Mckee's Dam	Nr. Hillsborough	Woodland / wetland management, paths, signage and picnic area.	LCCC	High
LU02	Campbell Terrace Playing Field	Lurganure	Improve planting, play trail, paths and seating. Upgrade to a local park.	LCCC	Low
HI17 & HI18	Lisnagarvey Hockey Club	Hillsborough and Culcavy	Potential to create better public access to the site and links to Hillsborough Forest.	LCCC / Lisnagarvey Hockey Club	Low

Table 11: Killultagh Recommendations

Reference	Site Name	Settlement	Recommendation	Lead Delivery Agent	Priority (H/M/L)
GL04 GL06	Killultagh Green	Glenavy	Potential to provide football goals in one area of the open space, benches along the paths and areas of amenity shrub planting to diversify the character and appearance of the open space. Upgrade to a Local Park.	Local Developer owner	Medium
GL05	Johnston Park Play Area	Glenavy	Landscape planting, seating and improved quality.	LCCC / NIHE	Low
	Maghaberry Community Centre	Maghaberry	Install full size grass football pitch UPDATE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning approval granted 6 March 2019 • Consideration being given to reorientation of pitch • Dog exercise area to be installed once clarity on pitch reached 	LCCC	High

	Stoneyford Reservoir	Stoneyford	Potential to open up walking trails around Stoneyford Reservoir site and extensive tree planting scheme	LCCC / NI Water	Low
	Dundrod play facilities	Dundrod	Potential to explore provision of children's fixed play park	LCCC / EA	Low



Lisburn and Castlereagh Open Spaces (Green) Strategy



Community & Stakeholder Consultation Summary

by

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May 2022

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In November 2018, the Development Committee agreed to an assessment of open space for the Local Development Plan, in order to gain evidence in relation to the quality, quantity and accessibility or distribution of open space across the area.

The Open Spaces (Green) Strategy seeks to secure best value and provide a prioritised framework for investment, maintenance and management.

The aim of the Strategy:

- Enable Leisure & Community Wellbeing to prioritise improvement
- Create a reliable and up-to-date evidence base of parks and open spaces
- Transformation Directorate will utilise the evidence to support the LDP

Best practice UK guidance recommends that a strategy should comprise:

1. vision for open space and strategic principles
2. an audit of existing open space provision
3. an assessment of current and future requirements
4. a strategy with an action plan, developed in partnership with the Planning Unit.

The following report sets out the responses to the consultation and makes recommendations for amendments to the draft Open Spaces (Green) Strategy.

2.0 CONSULTATION

Online Consultation

Ironside Farrar designed an online engagement consultation "virtual room" which was open for a 12 week period from the 6th December 2021 to the end of February 2022. The online consultation presented a summary of the draft Open Space Strategy, provided links to the DEA maps / Action Plans and the full Strategy document. The aim of the consultation was to raise awareness of the Strategy and consult on the 5 year Action Plan, identifying priorities and projects to build and enhance our open space. There was opportunity to complete a short questionnaire. Responses were invited via the web consultation / by email / by post or telephone.

The following images illustrates the consultation platform and the design of the consultation space:





Printed display boards

The 11No. consultation boards were put on display at the Council office's reception with questionnaires for those who could not access the consultation on-line.



The consultation was advertised by the Council's Public Relations department and was advertised on the front page of the council's website, with links to the consultation platform and linked questionnaire. Publicity and wider contact with key community groups / social media / press releases / posters was undertaken by LCCC Officers to raise awareness in the community. LCCC advertised the consultation via online and offline methods, ensuring maximum awareness and participation in the consultation.

The following methods were used:

- LCCC Website (in relevant section of the website, with a headline link on the front page)
- LCCC social media account (e.g. Twitter, Facebook etc.)
- Local Press releases
- Emails direct to Council contacts / networks (e.g. Equalities groups, community councils, councillors, community groups, sports / interest groups etc.)
- Launch of the online consultation by LCCC - social media / website / Council news feeds

GDPR: All information provided will be held securely and in line with GDPR legislation. The responses will only be shared with the council's consultant. No personal data has been captured in this consultation.

3.0 QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

3.1 Number of Responses Received

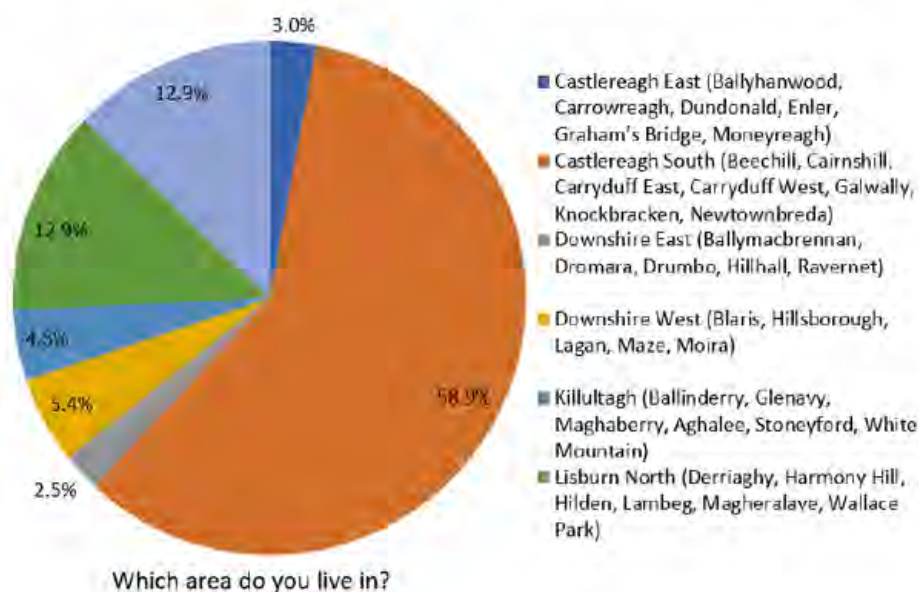
During the consultation period between 6th December 2021 to the end of February 2022, the online consultation was accessed 486 times. The online article on the LCCC website was accessed 301 times, and 53.49% of people accessed one of the links in the article.

The following summarises the number of completed and partially completed questionnaires:

- 218 completed questionnaire submissions
- 268 partially completed questionnaire submissions
- 5 email / postal submissions

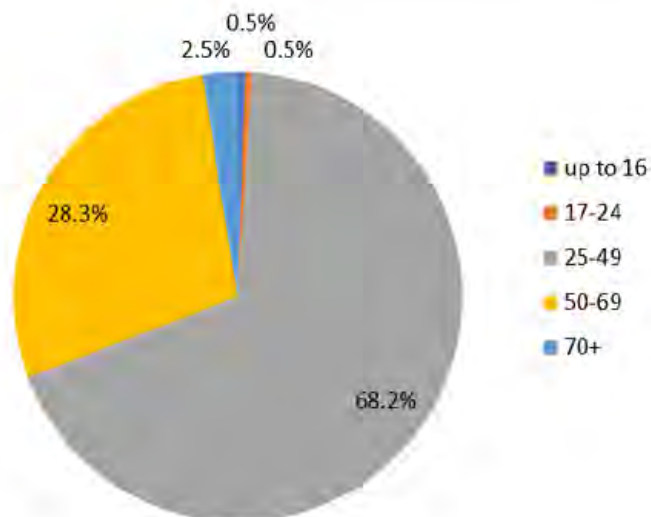
Over 301 people accessed the website to view the Strategy and the online consultation. Data was not able to be gathered regarding the number of people who viewed the physical consultation boards displayed in the Council office's reception.

Respondents were asked which area they lived in. Over 58% came from Castlereagh South.



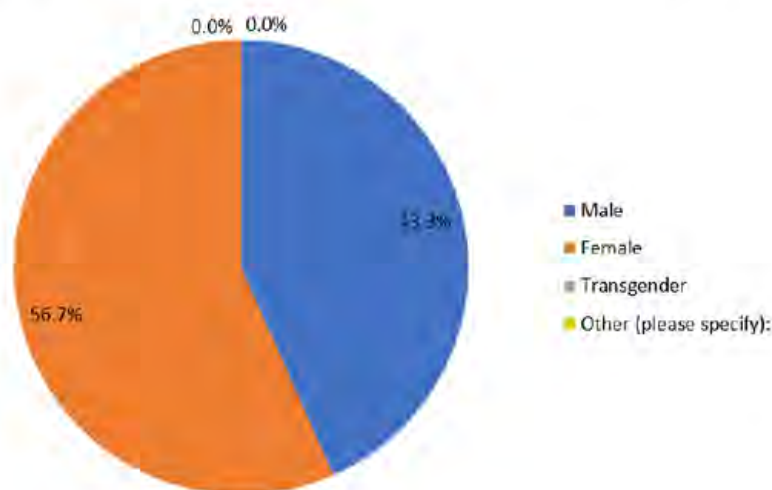
3.2 Demographics and Background of Respondents

Over 68% of the respondents were aged between 25 and 49 years old. 28% of respondents were aged between 50 and 69 years old. These figures may be reflective of the age of people who are currently enjoying the many parks and open spaces in the council area.



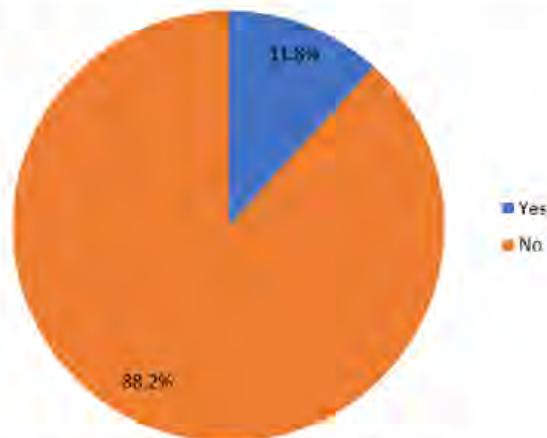
Age range

56.7% of respondents were female and 43.3% were male. There were no other categories identified in the responses.



Gender

When asked if the respondent had a disability, 88.2% said that they did not have a disability, and 11.8% identified a disability.



Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

19.5% of the respondents were members of a community group, with the following groups represented:

- Carryduff Colts FC
- Carryduff Facebook page
- Killynure Community Association
- Belvoir Area Residents
- Carryduff Women's Institute
- South Antrim Hockey Club
- Lisburn Cricket Club
- Comber Flower Club
- Lisburn Taekwondo Club
- Crewe United FC
- Open door walking group
- Carryduff Community
- Aghalee Village Hall
- Ballymacash
- Carryduff GAC
- Four Winds, Carryduff
- Lagan Valley Regional Park Conservation Volunteers
- South Antrim hockey club
- Blenheim Park neighbourhood watch
- Killynure community association
- Bracken Hill Residents Group
- NetWise youth group
- Drumbo Folk Choir
- Harmony Hill
- 9th Antrim Scouts
- Pride of Ballybeen Community Flute Band
- Lisburn Running Club
- Lisburn Outlook
- St Patrick's GAC
- Carryduff Regeneration Forum
- St John's Community group
- Carryduff Retirement Association
- Moneyreagh Draughts Club
- Toasted Running Club

3.3 Activities and Use of Open Space

Respondents were asked what they mainly use the outdoor spaces in the Council for? The following activities were listed:

- Walking: 39.1%
- Jogging: 16.9%
- Sport: 12.7%
- Dog walking: 19.5%
- Yoga or Pilates: 1.3%
- Other: 10.5%

The open spaces are used for a wide variety of activities, including: picnics, cycling, kids playing, for fresh air, "sitting and watching the world", running, wildlife, meditation, family activities, Scouting, meeting with friends, painting, relaxing, socialising, mountain biking, tandem cycling, bird watching, photography, roller skating and various volunteering activities outdoors.

59% of people said that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way they use their local open spaces.

There was a variety of reasons quoted for an increased use of the open spaces, including:

- We use it even more!
- I have begun to jog and cycle more
- Realised how important they are

- They are a safe place to meet, exercise and socialise
- We go out more as a family and play around climbing trees and not just a quick walk
- I avoid peak times as all outdoor space has become over crowded
- Not necessarily changed the way I used the spaces, but has changed the frequency
- People have been happier to meet outside and are looking for quirky/innovative activities and events that they can go along to
- Much more outdoor activity
- I now travel further to make use of better facilities
- The open space keeps me safer and encourages me to exercise more for my own fitness and mental wellbeing
- Using outdoor space more to meet friends play with grandchildren
- I'm staying more local
- I walk more frequently around my local area
- I've discovered new areas near where I live

3.4 Proposed Vision and Strategic Principles

98% of people said that they agreed with the draft vision for the Open Space Strategy.

The draft vision is as follows:

"The city, towns, villages and suburbs of Lisburn and Castlereagh will enjoy a range of attractive and accessible parks and open spaces close to where people live. "Flagship" parks, greenspaces and play areas will draw local residents and visitors to both urban and rural centres, providing places for social interaction, play, sport, recreation and quality of life for all.

Existing open spaces will be protected and enhanced to diversify urban habitats and extend the green network. Where possible, open spaces will be linked by a network of paths and green corridors to encourage active travel, healthier lifestyles and exploration of the outdoors."

99% of people said that they agreed with the draft Strategic Principles of the Open Space Strategy.

To ensure that open spaces are fit for the future, 6 guiding principles have been set to help achieve the vision for open space:

1. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being and social benefits to communities
2. Provide exciting, active and inclusive places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings
3. Support and encourage access to high quality open space close to where people live that meets the needs of different ages, abilities and backgrounds
4. Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride
5. Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change
6. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open spaces

3.5 Proposed Action Plan

Respondents were asked whether the draft Action Plan captured the main open space priorities for their area? 36 out of 82 answered "Yes" to this question, which is 44%. Most comments were mostly positive with regards to the wider open space resource, with specific actions identified in the areas where people lived or visited.

A number of respondents answered the question of the Action Plan, referring to specific open spaces. The responses have been reviewed and amalgamated with the responses to the question about suggested improvements to open spaces in the local area. Refer to section 3.6 below.

3.6 Open Space Improvements

When asked what improvements to open spaces in your area would you suggest, the following projects / issues were identified:

- More emphasis should be given to linkage between town centres, housing and open spaces, improving access for all
- More facilities for safe cycling / walking areas, well lit, and with play areas for children
- More facilities for older children and young people (e.g. play areas, skate park, BMX park, tennis / basketball courts)
- More LCCC led outdoor activities such as yoga, netball etc.
- Dog exercise areas
- More natural play equipment / features e.g. sculpture, wood carvings, stone monuments, outdoor exercise equipment, running tracks, tennis courts, seating areas, toilets and bins
- Measures to attract more wildlife and information boards on wildlife, bird hides etc.
- Lighting in parks and along paths to make areas safer and more usable in winter months
- Greenway connecting other towns e.g. Belfast and Carryduff Greenways
- More outdoor seating / picnic areas
- Primrose Hill has no local park within walking distance, and there is a need for a play area
- Lough Moss play ground is in need of updating and there should be a second playground close to the new marsh/eco area
- Provide a multi purpose event space at Lough Moss, lit paths, seating and bins
- Develop the site at the back of Lough Moss as a Community Hub for sports like skateboarding, BMX, rollerblades, pump track, cycle track etc.
- Greater access to forest areas, for example through Knockbracken Health Care Park to further enhance the opportunities in Hydebank Wood
- Cycling routes around and to Four Winds (e.g. better connection from Knockbracken Rd)
- Better parking facilities at Wallace Park, Lisburn
- Better connection between Colby play park and pitches at Cairnshill
- A fully operational 4G football pitch or pitches in the Hydebank area
- Better maintain Glencreagh Glen and the path up to Lisnabreeny Fort
- Play areas around Glenavy village
- Better overall accessibility, including a park designed with children's / young adults disabilities in mind
- Connectivity to existing green / blueways, and connections to neighbouring areas
- Provide an athletics track in the Council area
- Recreation areas for children around Ballymacconaghy Road

- A link from Baronscourt development to Carryduff Park
- Summer concert / art space in a local open space
- Make better use of the Cregagh Glen, near Colby Park
- 4G lit football pitch at Carryduff school
- Rewilding and conservation of nature in open spaces
- Safe access/lit pathways e.g. residents in Ballymacash Park have to cross Prince William Road to get to the open space, the playground is inaccessible due to the gate beside Pond Park Primary into Ballymacash Park being locked
- Improved access to the River Lagan
- A hurling / camogie wall ball at Hydebank and other spaces
- Another playpark in the Four Winds area
- Improved car parking for park users
- Creating more of a 'green corridor' between towpath at Island Art Centre and the nursery
- Need a play area in Cairnshill / Malvern / Finsbury and an outdoor gym
- More play facilities for children at Billy Neill open space
- Improved park in Aghalee to suit different age groups
- New park in Lower Ballinderry
- Facilities at the Broadwater, toilets and a coffee shop
- Play area for children in Manor Park area that doesn't include crossing a main road
- Fruit trees and bushes in some open spaces
- Transform the area on Brokerstown Road for community use e.g. garden, play park etc.
- It is important that open spaces are well-maintained and accessible for all
- Open spaces should be used in a positive way for activities and events that will engage the community e.g. volunteering activities such as conservation projects and maintenance
- Provide play / recreation around Ballymaconaghy and connect new developments
- There are no proposals for Killynure Estate
- Forestside is important as there is a need for local outdoor space between Laurel Grove and Brooke Hall where new housing is being generated
- Maximise links into Belfast City council greenways, Lagan towpath etc. to promote sustainable travel options
- We need open spaces in the Ballmaconaghy Road area
- Poor access to open space from Ivanhoe / Manse Road, Baronscourt, Baronsgrange and Killynure
- Improve the grass pitches area adjacent to Cairnshill Primary School and outdoor gym
- Quiet spaces for adults or those with additional needs who need peaceful places to visit
- There is not enough open space in the Moss Road area
- Lack of provision towards estates near the Lagan Valley hospital area
- No safe green connections between Moneyreagh and surrounding villages/towns
- More attention should be paid to ensuring the safety and freedom of movement of blind and partially sighted people
- I'd like to see development of the linear park at Magheralave Road
- Reopen the circular pathway at Down Royal Racecourse

The council will consider the feedback and suggestions made in the consultation and prioritise their progression through the Local Area Plans and DEA development programmes.

3.7 Any Further Comments

A range of other topics were raised during the consultation, utilising the "any further comments" section. Issues covered were as followed:

- Provision of equipped indoor leisure facilities
- Loss of existing green spaces, redeveloped for housing
- Promotion of active travel to green spaces by walking or cycling
- The bus service
- Council investment in particular areas
- Quality of football pitches
- Non-partisan in its approach to the design of planting schemes
- Road safety in relation to the entrance of parks
- Electric vehicle charging points
- Business improvement grants scheme for shop frontages
- A policy to ensure and enforce responsible dog walking
- The Lagan Towpath
- Laurelhill shale pitch development
- Lagan Valley Regional Park
- Use of electric scooters on paths around parks
- Dog fouling
- Segregated cycle paths
- Better, cleaner toilet facilities
- Recycling facilities for drinks bottles

The council will consider the feedback and suggestions made in the consultation and prioritise their progression through the Local Area Plans and DEA development programmes.

3.8 Statutory Consultees

The following responses were received by the Statutory Consultees who responded to the Open Space Strategy Consultation.

National Trust NI Consultation Response

Within the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area, the National Trust looks after Lisnabreeny which takes in a wooded glen, estate and green fields.

Overall, we support the vision for the Open Space Strategy, as it mirrors our own commitment to improving access to our open spaces. We would like to see reference to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in greenspaces and green corridors added to the vision. We support the six Strategic Principles. However, within Principle 5, we would like to see reference added to tackling the nature crisis. Leading biodiversity and climate experts agree that climate change and biodiversity loss are interconnected, and the twin crises must be tackled together.

In relation to Principle 6, we fully support the promotion of opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open space, as this has the potential to benefit people's health and wellbeing and help reduce transport emissions. However, we would urge that this is planned, delivered and managed in a way that respects the natural environment, particularly in areas with environmental designations.

We would welcome the opportunity to explore how the Council's vision for connectivity of green spaces could include the National Trust's open spaces at Lisnabreeny and into Belfast, for example at Minnowburn in the Lagan Valley Regional Park. We would welcome the opportunities to explore opportunities to improve linkages between communities and the large areas of open space within the countryside, including at Lisnabreeny. We would also suggest National Trust could be mentioned as a potential partner under Principle 5 (Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change), particularly in relation to protecting and managing the existing open space networks, identifying opportunities to diversify existing landscape to support biodiversity, and extending urban green networks.

Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland (COPNI) Consultation Response

Older Persons in Northern Ireland have been adversely affected by the impact of Covid-19. Between 1 March 2020 and 31 October 2021, of the 3692 covid related deaths over 93.4 per cent were people aged over 60. The impact of covid is evident not only on physical health and longevity, but also upon people's mental health. According to a recent report by the Campaign to End Loneliness, 71% of people in NI are worried about someone they know being lonely during the winter months because of the Covid-19 restrictions and 88% of people in NI say loneliness has become a bigger problem since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The development of more and improved open and green spaces, have the potential to help address some of the issues caused by the pandemic such as increased feelings of loneliness and social isolation. Evidence of the accessing open and green spaces is evident in a recent report by Public Health Scotland, who found that there had been a marked increase in the use of outdoor and green spaces during the pandemic and that 9 in 10 individuals agreed that being in green and open spaces benefitted their mental health.

However, the report also found that there were inequalities in use of green and open spaces, and these may have widened during the pandemic and more interventions to increase use of green and open space should ensure a focus on disadvantaged groups.

COPNI welcomes the strategy and its potential to help all members of society. COPNI would like to see greater inclusion of measures relating to Age Friendly practices. We would recommend that any future developments are undertaken considering the World Health Organisation's (WHO) principles and guidance on outdoor spaces.

COPNI is aware that LCCC has in the last few years launched both an Age Friendly Strategy, and an Age Friendly Alliance (AFA) and COPNI would be encouraged to see direct application of Age Friendly principles within the strategy and consultation with the LCCC's AFA on the proposed outcomes of the strategy.

COPNI agrees with the strategic principles but would also like to see reference to the inclusion and specific needs of older persons.

COPNI would ask that LCCC ensures that any open space developments are carried out with Age Friendly principles in mind, ensuring adequate seating and toilet provision is available. All projects and future planning should be conscious of the positive impact that the provision of outdoor and green spaces can have on older persons.

The NI Housing Executive Consultation Response

Refer to Appendix 1.

Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) Consultation Response

The Board of the LVRP supports the principles of the Open Space Strategy. However, there has been a lack of recognition of the significance of the LVRP and the importance of its management in helping deliver the aspirations of the strategy. There are many instances in the strategy where the LVRP could be given more prominence and recognition, together with reference to the LVRP 5 Year Management Plan, where our actions should dovetail with those in this strategy.

The park is included under "Parks and Gardens" alongside formal parks and gardens (tables 1 and 2). We believe this downplays the importance and scale of the LVRP and should have its own line in these tables.

The text could be strengthened in recognition of the importance of the LVRP and how the Council supports this work by providing annual funding for its management. In general LVRP through its work in connecting corridors also felt that the document should highlight the value of open space in developed areas in providing habitat, supporting biodiversity and in creating green and blue corridors that link wildlife sites.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

The draft Open Space Strategy document will be submitted to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI).

The Open Space Strategy & Action Plan will be brought back for final discussion and approval at the Leisure & Community Development Committee.

The final Open Space Strategy should be available in alternative formats, including copies for blind and visually impaired people, on request.

APPENDIX 1 Statutory Consultee Responses

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening

Part 1. Information about the activity/policy/project being screened

Name of the activity/policy/project

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council - Open Spaces (Green) Strategy 2022-2026

Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?

This is a new strategy

What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?

The overall aim of the strategy is to help shape the future direction of Council owned and managed open space for all the community to enjoy. Open spaces include parks, gardens, outdoor sports facilities, equipped children's playgrounds and other open spaces.

The Strategic Principles of the strategy are:

1. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being
2. Provide exciting and active places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings
3. Support and encourage access to high quality open space close to where people live
4. Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride
5. Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change
6. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open spaces

Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.

Council owned/managed open spaces and amenities are intended for everyone to enjoy. This includes residents and visitors to the district. Our aim is to provide amenities and facilities that will be attractive and accessible to all ages and categories, including the Section 75 categories. While the strategy is not targeting any group in particular, the needs of specific groups such as children, older people and people with disabilities will be taken into account in planning and development and/or refurbishment of all open space projects. For all who wish to use them, open spaces provide opportunities to all for informal recreation, or to walk, cycle or scoot within parks and open space or exercise along paths, bridleways and river banks. Allotments may provide physical exercise and other health benefits. It has been proven that the use of open green spaces can provide physical and mental health benefits to users, no matter which section 75 group they belong to. The Council recognise that facilities must be promoted so that everyone will wish to use them, so that they know about provision and accessibility to open space areas.

Open spaces within the Council area will particularly benefit certain groups whose needs have been taken into account, in terms of accessibility. Many parks, trails and greenways have been designed with particular groups in mind, for example they are suitable for those with mobility issues, including those who look after or care for children using buggies/pushchairs, those who have disabilities and older people who are using rollator walking aids or walking sticks. The council are keen to continue this in the future, taking consideration of certain Section 75 group needs, in the design and construction of new open spaces. A recent investment in the allotment site at Bells Lane, has seen the installation of disabled and baby changing facilities. Raised beds and potting benches have been installed for those who use wheelchairs, so that people with disabilities have full access to this new open space. It is hoped that in the future similar projects can be developed in other parts of the borough.

In Local Equipped Areas for Play, when funding is available, refurbishments will occur. New play equipment will be introduced for children with disabilities, so that they have the ability to use the same equipment as those without disabilities eg accessible ground level trampolines.

The Council wish to make green open spaces as accessible for as many section 75 groups as possible. At a number of sites, where it is appropriate, tactile maps and braille signs will be installed. This means that many more sites will be accessible for those who are blind and partially sighted.

Under the new strategy Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play and Local Equipped Areas for Play will be installed in local communities, so that residents can access these areas in their own community. This will have a positive effect on those with particular political opinions, within racial groups and who have differing religious beliefs. These sections of the community can access open spaces which are convenient to them, without having to travel into another community where they may not feel comfortable to play or carry out physical activity.

Covid 19 is an ongoing pandemic, and the health and safety of our users will be paramount at all times. It has been found by the Council that during the Covid 19 pandemic more people wanted to take exercise outdoors, in natural surroundings, to help both their physical and mental health and wellbeing. The Council recognised the need for creating accessible places for everyone to experience the great outdoors. Where opportunities arise the Council will explore new ways to access the countryside. If this is through obtaining formal planning permissions or permissive path agreements, with local land owners, the Council will pursue all avenues, to create new trails which are accessible to all.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

Parks and Amenities Service Unit

Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project

LCCC owns the strategy.

Parks and Amenities will implement the strategy.

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the activity/policy/project?

Yes

If yes, are they: financial, legislative, other? Give brief details of any significant factors.

Limited budget, unsuccessful funding bids, government policy including planning restrictions. Covid-19 may hold up improvement works to open spaces.

Dependency on partners in some areas, for example Lagan Valley Regional Park.

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the activity/policy/project will impact upon?

Staff	Yes.
Service Users	Yes. Particularly those with access issues.
Other Public Sector Organisations – please list	Yes. Belfast City Council who are partners in the management of Lagan Valley Regional Park.
Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions – please list	Yes. The strategy will impact upon the voluntary and community sector who wish to use open spaces.
Other – please list (eg, Elected Members, delivery partners, contractors, etc)	Elected Members, delivery partners and contractors during construction works.

Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project

Name policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
1. Corporate Plan 2018-2022	LCCC
2. Community Plan	LCCC
3. Regional Development Strategy 2035	NI Executive
4. Strategic Planning Policy Statement	Department for Infrastructure NI
5. Making Life Better 2013-2023	Department of Health NI

6. Health & Safety Policies	LCCC
7. LCCC Equality Scheme and associated action plans	LCCC
8. LCCC Local Biodiversity Action Plan	LCCC

Available evidence

What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.

The Open Space Strategy builds on the **Open Space Audit** undertaken by the Council as part of the Local Development Plan process, and its focus is on a planned and managed network of multi-functional open spaces, which can deliver a range of environmental, economic and social benefits for local communities. It feeds into a 5 year Action Plan which identifies priorities and projects to build and enhance our open space where a need has been identified.

The publication of the **Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Plan** requires an integrated approach in the delivery of its aims and objectives in particular health, education, community safety the voluntary sector arts and leisure. The Community Plan includes three relevant primary outcomes with specific relevance to open space:

- 1: 'Children and young people have the best start in life.'
- 3: 'We live healthy, fulfilling and long lives.'
- 4: 'We live and work in attractive, resilient and environmentally-friendly places.'

In 2015, LCCC prepared a **Playing Pitch Strategy** with the purpose of enabling the Council to make informed planning decisions regarding pitch provision and assists with the targeting of financial investment and the planning of the delivery of sports development programmes.

The Council commissioned a **Play Strategy** in 2015, including playability audits for fixed play provision under the council's ownership, providing an overview of current and future potential levels of supply and demand.

Outdoor Recreation NI carried out a Northern Ireland survey in May 2020, entitled, 'Engaging with the Outdoors During COVID-19 Lockdown in Northern Ireland. This looked at how people were using open spaces during lockdown, the benefits

obtained, issues encountered and expectations for the future. It was found that more people were getting outdoors, barriers such as being forced to walk on roads and pavements due to a lack of off-road trails and paths need to be removed. The research concluded that 51% of people expect to spend more free time outdoors than they did pre-lockdown.

The Council recognises the importance of creating a healthy, active and accessible environment connecting places and people. We also recognise that as part of this, biodiversity, conservation and adapting to climate change are key. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a huge upsurge in people exercising outdoors and a need for improved socially distanced space. This, coupled with a desire from Council for more local DEA projects, has increased the opportunities for the development of open spaces for recreation throughout the Council area.

We have engaged with partners such as RNIB to identify areas for improvement in our Parks and then sought to avail of grant opportunities through the Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme to install tactile maps and braille signs.

The Council's Customer Care interface provides a regular source of useful user feedback, which we consider, when making changes to open space areas.

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious Belief	2011 Census/2014 LGD boundary data indicates that 23.95% of the LCCC population were brought up in the Catholic religion while 66.9% were brought up in the Protestant & Other Christian religion
Political Opinion	There would be a generally accepted link between religion and political opinion, in this instance the majority political opinion being Unionist
Racial Group	Using the same Census/boundary data indicates that just over 2% of the population were from an ethnic minority group
Age	The population at June 2017 totalled 142640: 28596 (0-15 years) 42110 (16-39 years)

	<p>47466 (40-64 years) 24468 (65+ years)</p>
Marital Status	<p>For the 16+ population in relation to marital and civil partnerships:</p> <p>30.65% single 53.78% married 0.10% same sex partnership 3.27% separated 5.52% divorced 6.68% widowed</p>
Sexual Orientation	<p>The ONS published in 2017 data indicating that 1.2% of the household population in NI identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual</p>
Men & Women Generally	<p>The LCCC population (2017) was 51% female and 49% male. This reflects the overall NI position. Females outlive males (their life expectancy is longer) and therefore there will be somewhat more females in the population, and considerably more in the older age groups (and consequently more females with disabilities).</p>
Disability	<p>Using the same boundary/census data as above indicates that 18.29% of the population had a long-term health problem or disability.</p>
Dependants	<p>People with dependants may have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and/or a dependent older person. Census data for LCCC 2011 suggests 46.3% of residents have dependants.</p> <p>Of households in LCCC District with dependent children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 7,407 families have one dependent child ➤ 6,394 families have two dependent children ➤ 5,014 families have three dependent children.

	<p>There is limited analysis of the dependant status of the NI and LCCC populations but there is some official data on the 75,000 carers' allowance claimants. DfC information suggests that women are more than twice as likely to be a claimant and therefore have care responsibilities for dependants who are elderly or disabled. 64% of claimants are 35-64 years old, and 31% are 65+.</p>
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Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe.
Political Opinion	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe.
Racial Group	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe. Some ethnic minorities, who are new to the area, may need access to translation of information, and their knowledge of open spaces may be limited.
Age	Older people may be less mobile than others and will need safe level surfaces in order to use open spaces. They may also need rest areas (seating or shelter) and well-lit areas, where they will feel safe. Accessible toilets will also be required for some older people.

Marital Status	No particular needs identified for people of different marital status
Sexual Orientation	No particular needs identified for people of different sexual orientation
Men & Women Generally	Need for safe spaces for women, areas should be well-lit, especially at night.
Disability	Paths, trails and greenways accessible for those in wheel chairs or with walking aids. Signage and information available in formats that those with visual/hearing impairments can access. Accessible toilet provision. People with mental health issues can benefit from the provision of more quality open spaces that are convenient to where they live.
Dependants	Carers of children/older people/disabled people need accessibility for buggies/wheelchairs/walking aids so that they can enjoy open spaces as a family group.

This council policy is about creating safe open spaces for everyone in the community. The council proactively encourages their use through programmes run for the socially isolated in our society. For example the CSAW Team deliver a range of programmes including walking groups, buggy blitz and other outdoor classes.

The signage on trails and paths within Parks has QR codes which can be used to access the internet and translated into multiple languages.

Needs

The main need is for accessibility for all. This includes those with disabilities, those with dependents and those who are older. People in these groups often have different needs from other groups. They may find access to the countryside difficult or limiting. If paths have steps, steep gradients, gates or small entrances, those in wheelchairs, using walking sticks, partially sighted, using pushchairs or those who are unsteady on their feet would find these obstacles difficult to overcome. Traditionally parks have been designed for able-bodied children. It

has been recognised that there is also a great need for play equipment for those children who have disability so that they too can access this play space.

There is also a need for some communities to access open spaces in their local area. If those with particular religious beliefs, political opinions or racial groups find it difficult to go into areas where people have different beliefs, opinions or are a different race, then the council has endeavoured to introduce Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play and Local Equipped Areas for Play. These play areas are usually convenient to residential areas. The council will ensure that the strategy provides equitable open space provision across all communities. Open spaces convenient to residential areas, also provides space for children and young people to play, who may not have access to transport.

It became apparent throughout the Covid 19 lockdown period that there is a need for additional suitable walking trails within the Council area. Some of the current paths are not suitable for groups with limited mobility. The Council realise that appropriate path provision is necessary, so that people with disabilities, those with dependents and older people, also have access to the countryside and a place to exercise. Due care has been taken by the Council to consider these groups and many new open spaces have been designed with these groups in mind. There has also been a focus on opening up local walking paths and trails. This has enabled those living in cities and towns to walk to the open space that they wish to use for exercise. This also has a positive effect on climate change by reducing the carbon footprint of individual households. Where appropriate, tactile maps and braille signs have been installed in parks to provide improved access for those who are visually impaired.

Experiences

The experience of those with disabilities, buggies/pushchairs or rollators is that at many open space areas, they may not have full access to a site due to poorly planned walkways or barriers to using them. The Council wants to avoid this, and so all greenways, paths and parks have been carefully pre-planned to take all end users into account. Tactile maps and braille signs have also been installed at a number of sites to enable access for those who are partially sighted. Children with disabilities have experienced a lack of play equipment that is suitable for their use, in traditional playparks.

Priorities

The priorities of the groups that could be affected by access (as stated in the table above), will be full accessibility to open spaces within the council area, so that they can achieve the same benefits as those who are not in these groups.

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Political Opinion	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Racial Group	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Age	Positive – more older people, particularly those with mobility issues, will be able to safely access and use open space areas, due to enhanced accessibility measures. Children will have access to open spaces which are convenient to where they live,	Minor

	<p>encouraging participation in physical activity.</p> <p>Teenagers will be able to access open spaces designed with their needs in mind – pump parks, skate parks.</p>	
Marital Status	No differential impact identified	
Sexual Orientation	No differential impact identified	
Men & Women Generally	No differential impact identified	
Disability	<p>Positive - People with certain disabilities, including those who are wheelchair users, use mobility aids, and who are visually impaired will find open spaces more accessible.</p> <p>Those who are visually impaired, can use tactile maps and braille signage.</p> <p>Those who have mental health disabilities can access safe open spaces where they can relax and feel close to nature.</p>	Minor
Dependants	Positive - People with dependants, including those who use buggies or wheelchairs, will find open spaces easier to use. Open spaces will have improved facilities which whole families	Minor

	can enjoy – with this comes social benefits.	
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* See Appendix 1 for details.

2(a) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief		Open spaces have been designed to accommodate all S75 groups. LCCC owned spaces are shared spaces and not specifically aimed to accommodate one particular S75 group. No further opportunities have been identified at this time as the needs of different groups have been considered fully in developing the strategy. However, if further issues arise, they will be addressed.
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		
Age		
Marital Status		
Sexual Orientation		
Men & Women Generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)

Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan: [add link to DAP]

- to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Yes

The Open Spaces Strategy will allow improved access so that more people with disabilities will be able to use the Council’s parks and greenways. Through this, there will be more interaction between disabled people and non-disabled people, and so this may work towards promoting more positive attitudes towards disabled people. There is also the potential for use of images of disabled people

in promotional material for council facilities and spaces, which will also raise awareness and promote positive attitudes.

- to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life?

Yes.

The Open Space Strategy works towards encouraging the participation of disabled people in public life, by providing opportunities for those with disabilities to enjoy outdoor spaces, by giving them access to these spaces. When planning new sites and refurbishing existing sites, the views of those with disabilities will be sought, to ensure improved accessibility. This strategy has the potential to contribute specifically to actions 3.2 – Target disabled people in council consultations and engagement initiatives and 3.3 Continue to work with disabled individuals and representative groups.

3 To what extent is the activity/policy/project likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – minor/major*
Religious Belief	This strategy should have a positive impact on Good Relations through the provision of shared facilities and spaces and positive promotion of these, to the whole population, as places where people can feel safe and secure.	Minor
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		

*See Appendix 1 for details.

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief		Not at present. However, further opportunities can be considered

Political Opinion		when plans are developed for specific projects that are undertaken. For example, new spaces/facilities or improvements to sites may need to be promoted to encourage people to use them. Also, the location may dictate who uses spaces or facilities.
Racial Group		

Multiple identity

Provide details of any data on the impact of the activity/policy/project on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

The Council recognises that no individual sits in one group and this has been given consideration.

Increased accessibility may particularly benefit older people with disabilities, younger people with disabilities, people who have dependent children or dependants who are disabled.

The development of the Council’s open spaces may be considered to be designed with people with disabilities, dependents and older people in mind, however these areas can be used by anyone in the community. Is it also recognised that those using parks, trails and greenways, for example those with disabilities, will fall into other groups. They may be young or old, male or female or from a specific religious background.

Part 3. Screening decision/outcome

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a full equality impact assessment on a proposed policy or project.

There are 3 possible outcomes:

- 1) **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no negative impacts identified. This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
- 2) **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor impacts identified which can easily be mitigated. Most activity will probably fall into this category.
- 3) **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant (and potentially negative) impact identified for one or more groups so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment.

Choose only one of these and provide reasons for your decision and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision reached.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
Option 1 Screen out – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section]	
Option 2 Screen out with mitigation – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation [complete mitigation section below]	This policy will be screened out with mitigation. We have concluded that the impacts will be minor and should generally be positive for all groups. However, in developing plans for open spaces, due consideration will be given to some issues identified, including accessibility and inclusion.
Option 3 Screen in for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	

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Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)

Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative activity/policy and ensure the mitigations are included in a revised/updated policy or plan.]

It has been concluded from this screening exercise that there is no need to carry out a full equality impact assessment at this time. This is because the needs of specific groups have been taken into account in developing the strategy, mitigation measures are being put in place and the potential impacts identified are all minor and positive.

The aims of this strategy:

1. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being
2. Provide exciting and active places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings
3. Support and encourage access to high quality open space close to where people live
4. Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride
5. Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change
6. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open spaces

This strategy will be screened out with mitigation. This reasons for this are:

Mitigation factors – the geography of the council area will be studied closely and open spaces will be designed taking into account path width, path incline, seating provision and rest places at points around open spaces. Entrances to parks and greenways are designed to be accessible for wheelchair users and those pushing buggies. New playparks, and those which are being refurbished, will be designed

to provide play equipment for those in wheelchairs. The allotment site provides access for those with disabilities, in terms of accessible raised beds and potting benches and accessible toilets.

The screening has identified some needs and potential positive impacts on the following three groups – those with dependents, those with disabilities and those in the older age category. The impacts on these groups are now taken into consideration during construction works and the redevelopment of open spaces, and those impacts are minor or none. All measures have been taken to mitigate any potentially negative impacts on these groups.

Timetabling and prioritising for EQIA (only relevant to Option 3)

If the activity/policy has been ‘**screened in**’ for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the activity/policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people’s daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority’s functions	

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? No

Part 4. Monitoring

Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency? What will be monitored and how?

Where possible ‘Access Counters’ will be fitted to monitor footfall and use of the open spaces.

Periodic spot surveys will also take place to gather qualitative feedback from users and to gather comments for further improvement.

The Council’s Customer Care policy is advertised on all Park signage to encourage feedback – good or bad. All communication is responded to.

Local consultation on the potential to enhance or develop our open spaces will take place eg Lough Moss Playing Fields, Killeaton Open Space.

What specific equality monitoring will be done?

Play equipment for those with disabilities will be monitored and kept in working order.

Accessibility to facilities will be constantly reviewed and improved when identified.

Will be undertaken by:	Frequency (eg. Annually):
Name & Position/Job Title:	
Parks & Amenities Head of Service	The strategy will be reviewed every five years and the actions from the strategy will be reviewed every two years.
Will be signed-off by:	
Name & HoS Title:	
R J R Gillanders – Head of Parks & Amenities	

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Gail McKechnie	C-SAW Project Manager	06.10.21
Reviewed by Mary McSorley	Equality Officer	06.10.21
Approved by:		
Ross Gillanders	Head of Service	1 Dec 21

Note: On completion of the screening exercise, a copy of the completed Screening Report should be:

- ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy
- sent to the Equality Officer for the quarterly screening report to consultees and internal reporting
- published on the LCCC website accompanied by a copy of the policy/project/plan being screened
- made available to the public on request.

Evidence referenced in the screening report should also be available if requested.

Appendix 1 – Equality Commission guidance on equality impact

*Major impact:

- a) The policy/project is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality matters are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;

- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

Minor impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

No impact (none)

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations;
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Appendix - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC)

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Development of LCCC Open Spaces (Green) Strategy 2022-2026

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Open Space Strategy 2021-2026

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

1. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being and social benefits to communities
2. Provide exciting, active and inclusive places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings
3. Support and encourage access to high quality open space close to where people live that meets the needs of different ages, abilities and backgrounds
4. Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride
5. Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change
6. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open spaces

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

N/A

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

N/A

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The Council envisages that the Open Spaces (Green) Strategy will:

- reinforce local identity and civic pride
- enhance the physical character of an area
- improve physical and social inclusion, including accessibility
- protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological habitats
- provide for children and young people's play and recreation
- boost the economic potential of tourism, leisure and cultural activities
- help mitigate and adapt to climate change
- contribute to the creation of healthy places.

This will impact people across the entire council area and so naturally will include those living in rural areas. Some provisions of the strategy will impact positively on rural communities in particular as they aim to support the development of tourism, environmental sustainability, and health and wellbeing. Open spaces will be maintained and developed equitably across the district, including in rural areas, which should encourage visitors and contribute to local economic development and the development of vibrant rural communities.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

The strategy will not generally impact people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas. However, where open spaces are located in rural areas, local people may particularly benefit both directly and indirectly.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

N/A

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

The Socio-economic profile and forecast, Lisburn & Castlereagh (2018-2032) identified the LCCC area as showing marked distinctions between the rural and urban populations. According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the L&CCC area live in rural areas and the population forecast is set to grow by 8,300 residents between 2018-2032 (0.4% per annum, twice that of the NI equivalent). L&CCC's population growth outlook between 2018-2032 on average will be 1.65% making it the third highest across NI districts and 0.35 points above the NI rate.

An Open Space Audit Technical Report was compiled by the consultancy firm Ironside Farrar Ltd, on behalf of LCCC in 2019. The overall aim of the study was to provide an Open Space Audit (incorporating pitches and equipped play areas) and prepare an Open Space Strategy for the LCCC Council area. The Open Space Audit provided the appropriate evidence base for the Local Development Plan through an assessment of open space. The outputs informed the Open Space Technical Supplement for the LDP and provide recommendations set out in an Action Plan to deliver the objectives of the Open Space Strategy. Understanding the role and function of Lisburn & Castlereagh's open spaces enabled the Strategy to make the most of these assets as well as providing better access and connections to them.

A public consultation on the Open Spaces Strategy is planned for December 2021 and all stakeholders will be involved, including individual residents, community groups and other organisations from rural and urban areas. This will be an online consultation which will be widely advertised through the council's communications team. Paper copies of the consultation will also be available and considered. If any issues are identified by rural consultees, consideration will be given to these before the strategy is finalised.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

The Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016) has identified the following as key areas;

Rural Businesses
Rural Tourism
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas
Education or Training in Rural Areas
Poverty in Rural Areas
Deprivation in Rural Areas
Rural Development
Agri-Environment

People in rural areas need access to services and facilities, including transport and play/leisure facilities that are convenient to where they live. They need employment opportunities, for example through tourism development, and the protection of the rural environment to facilitate this by making their rural areas attractive to potential tourists. Physical connectivity is needed to ensure the development of safe communities and good relations. People in rural areas are more likely to experience social isolation and loneliness which is exacerbated by distance from key services and a lack of connectivity.

If the response to Section 3A was **YES** GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

N/A

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the LCCC area live in rural areas.

Considering that almost half of the LCCC district is rural, balanced regeneration across the district is a key priority for the Council.

The Open Spaces (Green) Strategy has considered the need for people in rural areas to have access to quality open spaces for play and leisure convenient to where they live. It has also considered the role of open spaces in supporting people's health and wellbeing and as a driver for leisure and tourism development.

LCCC's open space provision contributes to the perception of the district as an attractive place for visitors which supports the development and sustainability of rural businesses. The strategy also considers the benefits of environmental sustainability.

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes No If the response is **NO GO TO Section 5C.**

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The synopsis of the Strategy has been identified in Section 2B, fully considers the needs of the rural population. There have been no detrimental impacts identified.

In particular, the Strategy takes into account the need for equitable provision of quality open space across the district, including in rural areas. It takes into account the specific need for rural dwellers to have access to leisure and play facilities that are convenient and accessible as well as the need for council to support the development and sustainability of rural tourism and businesses.

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES GO TO Section 6A.**

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

N/A

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.



Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Gail McKechnie
Position/Grade:	C-SAW Project Manager
Division/Branch	Parks & Amenities
Signature:	
Date:	08.11.21
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Ross Gillanders
Position/Grade:	Head of Parks & Amenities
Division/Branch:	Parks & Amenities
Signature:	
Date:	8 November 2021



Leisure & Community Development Committee

7th February 2023

Report from:

Head of Parks & Amenities

Item for Decision

TITLE: Twelfth July Parade – Infrastructure Support

Background and Key Issues:

1. Officers have received notification from the District Secretary of Ballinderry District Orange Lodge advising of their intention to host the Twelfth Demonstration in Upper Ballinderry on 12th July 2023.
2. To support this event the District Secretary has asked that the Council provide infrastructure support. This request would be consistent with previous requests which have been approved by Council for Magheragall District Orange Lodge in 2022 and Glenavy District Orange Lodge in 2019. No demonstrations took place in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid-19.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members approve the provision of infrastructure support to Ballinderry District Orange Lodge to enable them to host the Twelfth Demonstration in Upper Ballinderry on 12th July 2023 subject to notification and presentation to the Safety Advisory Group.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Provision has been made with the Estimates to provide infrastructure support to community events.

Screening:					
Equality and Good Relations	<input type="radio"/>	Yes	Environmental Impact Assessment	<input type="radio"/>	No
			Rural Impact Assessment	<input type="radio"/>	No

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL: No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE? No

If Yes, please insert date:

Provision of Event Infrastructure to Community Groups and Outside Organisations by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Leisure and Community Wellbeing – Parks and Amenities 2021-2022

It has been a long standing policy of Lisburn City Council and subsequently Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to provide infrastructure support to community led events, free of charge, providing it meets certain criteria. The policy was most recently approved at the Leisure & Community Development Committee on 11 May 2016. It was agreed to provide infrastructure support by way of loan of equipment to community / voluntary organisations for events who are using Council facilities or who are in receipt of Council grant aid for that event or a Council decision relating to assistance for the event.

The level of infrastructure support or loan of equipment must be commensurate with the scale of the event and the level of grant funding being awarded.

The Parks & Amenities Unit is charged with implementation of this policy, thus creating a welcoming community, through the accessibility of infrastructure for outside organisations. Through this policy, we can grow relationships with our local community and through supporting local groups encourage them to take ownership of events and the use of our parks and open spaces.

Parks & Amenities within the council endeavours to loan equipment without charge to all types of groups, for events. All sections of the community are encouraged to participate in events to showcase their talents, culture and interests etc. This is in line with the Council Corporate Plan and the remit to invest in people in order to reinforce a sense of belonging and public identity. These qualities are essential to the general health and wellbeing of our community and our society as a whole.

Lisburn Castlereagh City Council – Parks & Amenities, endeavours to assist and support all groups, individuals, and sections of the community. Community groups from all sections of society are encouraged to contribute to social cohesion through common interests and goals. This is in line with Council Corporate Plan as stated in Strategic Theme No. 5 – Our Community.

‘Outcome: We live in confident, harmonious, safe and welcoming communities. We want to grow a sense of citizenship, social cohesion, self-help and capacity of all our communities, increasing social, economic and environmental wellbeing’.

‘Corporate Actions - We will

- I. Lead and facilitate the next phase of Community Planning, working effectively with our partners to grow community wellbeing.
- II. Promote volunteering and participation in public and community life (arts, culture and sport) developing community ownership and management of local assets and facilities.
- III. Work with partners to create the social conditions and environments that will strengthen community confidence and provide support for people who need it.
- IV. Encourage inclusivity and equality of opportunity across our community, promoting the benefits of a diverse society, celebrating culture and good relations between people of different backgrounds and identities’.

In conclusion, Parks and Amenities are aware that everyone is unique, each with different needs and priorities. By provision of event infrastructure, these events can welcome all sections of the community, with facilities available for all requirements. Participating in cross community events provides opportunities to promote good relations between all.

Our aims and objectives are as follows:

1. Supplying event infrastructure facilities, without charge, to all groups and sections of the community to encourage community capacity and participation.
2. To enable groups to host their own events
3. Integrating equal opportunity principles and practices when delivering the service
4. To ensure the provision of adequate welfare facilities and thus lessen the risk of inappropriate behaviour.
5. Encourage Leadership within the Community
6. Encourage good practice when organising events in line with Health & Safety and Equality and assist in the delivery of a safer event
7. The provision of infrastructure will, it is considered facilitate inclusion of all groups within events held

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Equality and Good Relations Screening

Part 1. Policy scoping

Information about the policy

Name of the Policy

Provision of Event Infrastructure to Community Groups and Outside Organisations by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Leisure and Community Wellbeing – Parks and Amenities

Background

The Council aims to help facilitate organisations within the council area in their events by the hire, without charge, of equipment. This service is open to all sections of the community who are encouraged to take leadership roles and participate in events to showcase their culture, talents, interests etc. Community groups, Sports Activities and Schools are regularly involved in events within the council area.

Is this policy

An existing policy?	Yes	A revised policy?		A new policy?	
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The aim of this policy is to ensure that the council provides all sections of the community with the same service and support. Our objectives below list how the council will aspire to achieve this goal.

1. Supplying event infrastructure facilities, without charge, to all groups and sections of the community to encourage community capacity and participation
2. Integrating equal opportunity principles and practices when delivering the service
3. Providing transparency of procedure, openness and accountability, as per the agreed criteria Appendix 1 : Council minutes, event on council property, or organisation is in receipt of Council's financial assistance, eg. Community Festivals Fund
4. To ensure the provision of adequate welfare facilities and thus lessen the risk of inappropriate behaviour, spread of disease and germs
5. Encourage Leadership within the Community
6. Encourage good practice when organising events in line with Health & Safety and Equality and assist in the delivery of a safer event
7. The provision of infrastructure will, it is considered facilitate inclusion of all groups within the events held

Are there any expected benefits to the Section 75 categories/groups from this policy? If so, please explain

This service is extended to all community groups and individuals who may benefit from the provision of event infrastructure no matter their gender, religious beliefs, political opinion, racial group, disability, dependency, etc.

Benefits include

- Outside groups and individuals can use services without additional costs
- Groups and individuals can benefit from ease of operation
- Developing sustainable relationships
- Encourages local groups to build community
- The provision of infrastructure will, it is considered, facilitate inclusion of all groups within the events held

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Owned by **Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (The Council)**
 Written by Leisure & Community Wellbeing – Parks & Amenities

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (The Council) owns the policy, Leisure & Community Wellbeing - Parks & Amenities implements the policy.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

If yes, are they

Financial?	Yes	Legislative?		Other?	Yes
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If other, please detail below

The cost to Community Groups to access these facilities from other funding sources is prohibitive, and therefore have a bearing on community accessibility to essential event infrastructure due to budget constraints resulting in a negative impact on Health & Safety of Community events and the wellbeing and welfare of attendees. This could also impact the number of Community run events and negatively affect the Community and society as a whole and not fulfil the Council's aims and objectives as set out in this document.

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

Staff	✓
Service Users	✓
Other Public Sector Organisations such as...	✓
Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions	✓
Other	✓

If other, please detail below

- Local residents
- General Public
- Enthusiasts of Cars, Sports, Music etc.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

Name of policy	Who owns or implements policy?
Organisation and running for all the 'Public Events' within Leisure & Community Wellbeing – Parks & Amenities.	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council owns this policy, Parks & Amenities implements.
Our Plan For Growth & Connecting – Corporate Plan, 2018/2022 and beyond.	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Community Plan 2017/2032	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Development Plan 2019	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
H&S Events Safety	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council – Environmental Health
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Safety Advisory Group Policy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Children & Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Available evidence

A list of this service users is maintained. This list informs the council of infrastructure required on an annual basis and to ensure stock is available. It also provides a basis to compare from year to year in evaluating that the service is growing, fit for purpose and successful.

Sec 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious Belief	The 2011 Census/2014 LGD boundary data indicates that 23.95% of the LCCC population were brought up in the Catholic religion while 66.9% were of the Protestant & Other Christian religion
Political Opinion	There would be a generally accepted link between religion and political opinion. In this instance the majority political opinion being Unionist
Racial Group	Using the same Census/boundary data indicates that just over 2% of the population were from an ethnic minority group
Age	<p>We are aware that different age groups may have different needs including caring, mobility, disability etc. Consideration has been given to these different needs by providing event infrastructure which can help to accommodate these needs.</p> <p>The population at June 2019 totalled 144,381:</p> <p>29,126 (0-15 years) 42,555 (16-39 years) 47,748 (40-64 years) 24,952 (65+ years)</p>
Marital Status	<p>For the 16+ population in relation to marital and civil partnerships:</p> <p>30.65% single 53.78% married 0.10% same sex partnership 3.27% separated 5.52% divorced 6.68% widowed</p>
Sexual Orientation	The Continuous Household Survey in 2019 indicated that 1.8% of the household population in NI identified as Lesbian, Gay,

	Bisexual or Other.
Men & Women Generally	<p>The LCCC population (2018) was 50.9% female and 49.1% male. This reflects the overall NI position.</p> <p>It is recognised that in relation to events men and women may have different needs, such as different toilet facilities. These needs are given careful consideration when supplying any infrastructure.</p>
Disability	<p>It is recognised that individuals with any disability will have different needs to those without a disability. The same boundary/census data as above indicates that 18.29% of the population had a long-term health problem or disability in 2019.</p> <p>Previous events have included those with a broad range of disabling conditions. Disabled parking, viewing areas, toilet facilities and access are taken into account.</p> <p>By providing event infrastructure all Community groups can plan for these scenarios</p>
Dependants	<p>Dependants would generally include three main categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The care of a child or children • The care of an elderly relative/person • The care of someone with a disability <p>By providing event infrastructure Community groups can plan for these scenarios</p>

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Sec 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	It is considered that there are no different needs in respect of events for this group – the service is available to and is used by people of all religious backgrounds and none.
Political Opinion	It is considered that there are no different needs in respect of events for this group – the service is

	available to and is used by people of different political opinions and none.
Racial Group	We already ensure that our free support is publicised to different groups. We may need to ensure that new groups are aware of what we offer.
Age	We are aware that different age groups may have different needs, be it in respect of caring, mobility, disability etc. By providing event infrastructure Community groups can consider the needs of these groups at the planning stage.
Marital Status	It is considered that there are no different needs in respect of this service for this group.
Sexual Orientation	It is considered that there are no different needs in respect of this service for this group.
Men & Women Generally	It is recognised that in relation to this service and events generally men and women may have different needs, including caring responsibilities and toilet facilities. Women may need a space for breast feeding. By providing event infrastructure Community groups can consider the needs of these groups at the planning stage.
Disability	We are aware of the various types of disability and potential needs around accessibility and the needs of those with invisible disabilities, such as those with autism.
Dependants	This can cover adults looking after children, carers looking after an older relative/family member or indeed caring for someone with a disability. As all events aim to include everyone in the above range, by providing event infrastructure Community groups can consider the needs of these groups at the planning stage such as accessible toilet facilities.

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Sec 75 equality categories? (minor/major/none)

Sec 75 Category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact (minor/major/none)
Religious Belief	Provision of event	Minor - positive

	infrastructure means groups with limited resources can provide a better event to meet the needs of all attendees.	
Political Opinion	Provision of event infrastructure means groups with limited resources can provide a better event to meet the needs of all attendees.	Minor - positive
Racial Group	Provision of event infrastructure means groups with limited resources can provide a better event to meet the needs of all attendees.	Minor - positive
Age	Provision of our service ensures that organisers can provide a better event which meets the needs of children and older people.	Minor - positive
Marital Status	No differential impact identified	None
Sexual Orientation	No differential impact identified	None
Men & Women Generally	Provision of event infrastructure means groups can provide a better event to meet the needs of all attendees.	Minor - positive
Disability	Provision of our service means that specific actions are taken to facilitate the attendance of those with a disability at events, e.g. Charity fundraising events for worthy causes	Minor - positive
Dependants	Provision of our service means that specific actions can be taken to facilitate those with dependants, eg, families. Some actions for those with a disability may also benefit some people with dependants.	Minor - positive

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Sec 75 equality categories?

Sec 75 Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief		No, because the service is already used by all sections of the community
Political Opinion		As above
Racial Group	Only in relation to ensuring that newcomers and new groups are aware of our services	
Age		No, because our service already supports groups and individuals across all these groups
Marital Status		
Sexual Orientation		
Men & Women Generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

3 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief		None identified at present
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		

It is considered that there are no better opportunities to promote good relations as cross community groups and schools from both main communities are included in the participation of events.

4 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? (minor/major/none)

Good Relations Category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact (minor/major/none)
Religious Belief	Our service will enable some groups to organise events that will bring people together which may contribute to the promotion of good relations	Minor - positive
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

Council is aware that no one individual is exclusive to any one designated group. Multiple identity therefore has been given consideration within this screening exercise. In providing infrastructure support there will be benefits to those groups that support people with multiple identities, eg, older women or young people who are disabled etc

Part 3. Screening decision

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

The screening decision is to screen out without the need for mitigation as no negative impacts have been identified and all impacts are minor and positive.

The reasoning for this includes:

- Profiling the demographic background of the area, means the council has a general idea of types of attendees attending Community events.
- Having made regular amendments to cater for many multiple identities through the lending of event infrastructure.
- Equipment already being lent out to a wide variety of different types of events and organisations, therefore being open to all within the community.
- Supplying event infrastructure facilities, without charge, to all groups and sections of the community
- Integrating equal opportunity principles and practices when delivering the service
- Providing transparency of procedure, openness and accountability, as per the agreed criteria: Council minutes, event on council property or organisation is in receipt of Council's financial assistance eg. Community Festivals Fund
- Ensuring quality and continuity of service
- Community Services who are in close contact with local community groups are aware of the facility and pass this information on to relevant groups

However, the service will be reviewed on an annual basis and changes made if necessary.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.

[Empty text box]

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

[Empty text box]

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

[Empty text box]

Timetabling and prioritising – Not applicable

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

If the policy has been '**screened in**' for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	
Total Rating Score	

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

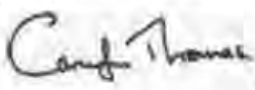
If yes, please provide details

N/A

Part 4. Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis whereby a search of our system will be conducted to see how many community events have been assisted with infrastructure and that list will be analysed and broken down into categories in order to make a full assessment and action taken accordingly.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
 Carolyn Thomas	Events Officer Parks & Amenities	13/10/2021
Reviewed by Mary McSorley	Equality Officer	13/10/2021
Approved by:		
Ross Gillanders	Head of Service	30/11/2021

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

References

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (2018) *Our Plan For Growth & Connecting – Corporate Plan, 2018/2022 and beyond.*

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (2017) *Community Plan 2017/2032*

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (2019) *Development Plan Position Paper 1: Population and Growth*

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics>

Census 2011 Population Statistics for Lisburn and Castlereagh Local Government District (2014)

<https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/AreaProfileReportViewer.aspx?FromAPAddressMultipleRecords=Lisburn%20And%20Castlereagh@@Lisburn%20And%20Castlereagh@22?#1253>

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Outdoor Events Booking Request Form



LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Leisure & Community Wellbeing

Parks & Amenities

Outdoor Events Booking Request Form

Booking details (Please complete in Block Capitals)

1. **Venue and Address** (please specify the location of the proposed event)

2. **Date and Time** (please specify the proposed date and time of the event)

3. **Describe the proposed Event in as much detail as possible** (please describe the event; anticipated numbers attending etc)

4. **Purpose of proposed Event** (Social, Recreational, Private Party, Fund Raising, Commercial etc)

--

5. **Facilities Required** (please specify what exactly you require eg is it a grassed area on which to hold an event; approx. how much space; or is it a function room for an internal event)

--

6. **Your Details**

Organisation (Organisation/Club/Team etc. If it a private booking go directly to 'Applicant's Contact Details')

Organisation Name	
Commercial / Profit Making	Yes / No
Charity	Yes / No (if Yes please provide NI Charity Commission Registration Number)
Community Group	Yes / No

Applicant's Contact Details

Name	
Address	
Email Address	
Mobile Number	

7. **Safety Advisory Group.** If your event booking is approved then it is a requirement of the Council that you notify S.A.G (Safety Advisory Group) of your event. The link below provides you access to the necessary forms:

<https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/business/health-safety-at-work/event-safety>

8. **Insurances and Risk Assessments.** If your event booking is approved then you may be required to provide Public and if relevant Employers Liability insurance to the Council Insurance Officer. You will also be asked to provide a Risk Assessment for the event.

9. **Contact.** Please email this form to event.request@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk once completed. Your request will be considered and you shall be contacted shortly to advise on availability and costs. No booking has been made until such times as this has been clarified and confirmed by the Council in email.

You are advised NOT to make any commitments re your event until such time as your request has been approved and confirmed.

10. **Privacy Notice.**

Your Personal Data:

What we need

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is the 'Controller' of the personal data that you provide to us. We only collect basic personal data, this does not include any special types of information, it does however include name, address, email etc.

Why we need it

We need to know your basic personal data in order to proceed with your event booking. We will not collect any personal data from you we do not need in order to provide and oversee this service to you.

What we do with it

All personal data that we process is processed by our staff in the UK however for the purposes of IT hosting and maintenance this information is located on servers within the European Union. No 3rd parties have access to your personal data unless the law allows them to do so. We have a Data Protection regime in place to oversee the effective and secure processing of your personal data.

How long we keep it

We are required under UK law to keep your basic personal data (name, address, contact details) in line with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Retention and Disposal Policy after which time it will be destroyed.

What are your rights?

If at any point you believe the information we process on you is incorrect you may request to see this information and even have it corrected or deleted. If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data not in accordance with the law you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The Council Data Protection Officer can contact at data.protection@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Full details of can be found on the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council website www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Appendix 2 - Background demographic data collected by NISRA about population estimates by Local Government District (mid-2018)

Map 1: Population estimates by Local Government District (mid-2018)

- Population Size**
- 110,000 to <125,000
 - 125,000 to <140,000
 - 140,000 to <155,000
 - 155,000 to <170,000
 - 170,000 to <185,000
 - 185,000 +



[Download Map](#) (PDF format – 225 Kb)

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NIMA MOU207.2

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/MYE18-Bulletin.pdf>



Leisure & Community Development Committee

7th February 2023

Report from:

Head of Parks & Amenities

Item for Decision

TITLE: Request from Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 to Use Wallace Park

Background and Key Issues:

1. Officers have received correspondence (**Appendix 8**) from the District Registrar of Lisburn Royal Black District requesting use of Wallace Park on Saturday 26th August 2023 in order to hold the County Antrim Grand Black Chapter Last Saturday Demonstration.
2. This request would be consistent with previous requests which have been approved by Council with the last such use by this organisation in 2021.
3. Note the park will remain open to the public throughout.
4. The event if approved will require Council temporarily setting aside the Byelaws which prohibit the following activities to preach, lecture or take part in any meeting for political, religious or any purpose or take part in any public show, performance or demonstration, except with the prior consent of the Council and in such part of the facility as may be set aside for that purpose.
5. If minded to support this request then with Council's approval, this Byelaw can be set aside for the duration of the event. The organisers will then be required to engage with the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and comply with all usual booking requirements.

6. It is anticipated that the organisers will require some infrastructure support to ensure the event passes of safely (**Appendix attached**).

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members approve the use of Wallace Pk on Saturday 26th August by Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 in order to hold the County Antrim Grand Black Chapter Last Saturday Demonstration, noting the potential need for infrastructure support. It is further recommended that the Byelaws are temporarily set aside to permit a religious service to take place.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Provision has been made with the Estimates to provide infrastructure support to community events. Minimal staff presence required.

Screening:

Equality and Good Relations

Yes

Environmental Impact Assessment

No

Rural Impact Assessment

No

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

Appendix – Equality Screening
 Appendix – Letter from Lisburn Royal Black District

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening

Part 1. Information about the activity/policy/project being screened

Name of the activity/policy/project

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council - Open Spaces (Green) Strategy 2022-2026

Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?

This is a new strategy

What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?

The overall aim of the strategy is to help shape the future direction of Council owned and managed open space for all the community to enjoy. Open spaces include parks, gardens, outdoor sports facilities, equipped children's playgrounds and other open spaces.

The Strategic Principles of the strategy are:

1. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being
2. Provide exciting and active places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings
3. Support and encourage access to high quality open space close to where people live
4. Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride
5. Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change
6. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open spaces

Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.

Council owned/managed open spaces and amenities are intended for everyone to enjoy. This includes residents and visitors to the district. Our aim is to provide amenities and facilities that will be attractive and accessible to all ages and categories, including the Section 75 categories. While the strategy is not targeting any group in particular, the needs of specific groups such as children, older people and people with disabilities will be taken into account in planning and development and/or refurbishment of all open space projects. For all who wish to use them, open spaces provide opportunities to all for informal recreation, or to walk, cycle or scoot within parks and open space or exercise along paths, bridleways and river banks. Allotments may provide physical exercise and other health benefits. It has been proven that the use of open green spaces can provide physical and mental health benefits to users, no matter which section 75 group they belong to. The Council recognise that facilities must be promoted so that everyone will wish to use them, so that they know about provision and accessibility to open space areas.

Open spaces within the Council area will particularly benefit certain groups whose needs have been taken into account, in terms of accessibility. Many parks, trails and greenways have been designed with particular groups in mind, for example they are suitable for those with mobility issues, including those who look after or care for children using buggies/pushchairs, those who have disabilities and older people who are using rollator walking aids or walking sticks. The council are keen to continue this in the future, taking consideration of certain Section 75 group needs, in the design and construction of new open spaces. A recent investment in the allotment site at Bells Lane, has seen the installation of disabled and baby changing facilities. Raised beds and potting benches have been installed for those who use wheelchairs, so that people with disabilities have full access to this new open space. It is hoped that in the future similar projects can be developed in other parts of the borough.

In Local Equipped Areas for Play, when funding is available, refurbishments will occur. New play equipment will be introduced for children with disabilities, so that they have the ability to use the same equipment as those without disabilities eg accessible ground level trampolines.

The Council wish to make green open spaces as accessible for as many section 75 groups as possible. At a number of sites, where it is appropriate, tactile maps and braille signs will be installed. This means that many more sites will be accessible for those who are blind and partially sighted.

Under the new strategy Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play and Local Equipped Areas for Play will be installed in local communities, so that residents can access these areas in their own community. This will have a positive effect on those with particular political opinions, within racial groups and who have differing religious beliefs. These sections of the community can access open spaces which are convenient to them, without having to travel into another community where they may not feel comfortable to play or carry out physical activity.

Covid 19 is an ongoing pandemic, and the health and safety of our users will be paramount at all times. It has been found by the Council that during the Covid 19 pandemic more people wanted to take exercise outdoors, in natural surroundings, to help both their physical and mental health and wellbeing. The Council recognised the need for creating accessible places for everyone to experience the great outdoors. Where opportunities arise the Council will explore new ways to access the countryside. If this is through obtaining formal planning permissions or permissive path agreements, with local land owners, the Council will pursue all avenues, to create new trails which are accessible to all.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

Parks and Amenities Service Unit

Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project

LCCC owns the strategy.

Parks and Amenities will implement the strategy.

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the activity/policy/project?

Yes

If yes, are they: financial, legislative, other? Give brief details of any significant factors.

Limited budget, unsuccessful funding bids, government policy including planning restrictions. Covid-19 may hold up improvement works to open spaces.

Dependency on partners in some areas, for example Lagan Valley Regional Park.

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the activity/policy/project will impact upon?

Staff	Yes.
Service Users	Yes. Particularly those with access issues.
Other Public Sector Organisations – please list	Yes. Belfast City Council who are partners in the management of Lagan Valley Regional Park.
Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions – please list	Yes. The strategy will impact upon the voluntary and community sector who wish to use open spaces.
Other – please list (eg, Elected Members, delivery partners, contractors, etc)	Elected Members, delivery partners and contractors during construction works.

Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project

Name policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
1. Corporate Plan 2018-2022	LCCC
2. Community Plan	LCCC
3. Regional Development Strategy 2035	NI Executive
4. Strategic Planning Policy Statement	Department for Infrastructure NI
5. Making Life Better 2013-2023	Department of Health NI

6. Health & Safety Policies	LCCC
7. LCCC Equality Scheme and associated action plans	LCCC
8. LCCC Local Biodiversity Action Plan	LCCC

Available evidence

What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.

The Open Space Strategy builds on the **Open Space Audit** undertaken by the Council as part of the Local Development Plan process, and its focus is on a planned and managed network of multi-functional open spaces, which can deliver a range of environmental, economic and social benefits for local communities. It feeds into a 5 year Action Plan which identifies priorities and projects to build and enhance our open space where a need has been identified.

The publication of the **Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Plan** requires an integrated approach in the delivery of its aims and objectives in particular health, education, community safety the voluntary sector arts and leisure. The Community Plan includes three relevant primary outcomes with specific relevance to open space:

- 1: ‘Children and young people have the best start in life.’
- 3: ‘We live healthy, fulfilling and long lives.’
- 4: ‘We live and work in attractive, resilient and environmentally-friendly places.’

In 2015, LCCC prepared a **Playing Pitch Strategy** with the purpose of enabling the Council to make informed planning decisions regarding pitch provision and assists with the targeting of financial investment and the planning of the delivery of sports development programmes.

The Council commissioned a **Play Strategy** in 2015, including playability audits for fixed play provision under the council’s ownership, providing an overview of current and future potential levels of supply and demand.

Outdoor Recreation NI carried out a Northern Ireland survey in May 2020, entitled, ‘Engaging with the Outdoors During COVID-19 Lockdown in Northern Ireland. This looked at how people were using open spaces during lockdown, the benefits

obtained, issues encountered and expectations for the future. It was found that more people were getting outdoors, barriers such as being forced to walk on roads and pavements due to a lack of off-road trails and paths need to be removed. The research concluded that 51% of people expect to spend more free time outdoors than they did pre-lockdown.

The Council recognises the importance of creating a healthy, active and accessible environment connecting places and people. We also recognise that as part of this, biodiversity, conservation and adapting to climate change are key. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a huge upsurge in people exercising outdoors and a need for improved socially distanced space. This, coupled with a desire from Council for more local DEA projects, has increased the opportunities for the development of open spaces for recreation throughout the Council area.

We have engaged with partners such as RNIB to identify areas for improvement in our Parks and then sought to avail of grant opportunities through the Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme to install tactile maps and braille signs.

The Council’s Customer Care interface provides a regular source of useful user feedback, which we consider, when making changes to open space areas.

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious Belief	2011 Census/2014 LGD boundary data indicates that 23.95% of the LCCC population were brought up in the Catholic religion while 66.9% were brought up in the Protestant & Other Christian religion
Political Opinion	There would be a generally accepted link between religion and political opinion, in this instance the majority political opinion being Unionist
Racial Group	Using the same Census/boundary data indicates that just over 2% of the population were from an ethnic minority group
Age	The population at June 2017 totalled 142640: 28596 (0-15 years) 42110 (16-39 years)

	47466 (40-64 years) 24468 (65+ years)
Marital Status	For the 16+ population in relation to marital and civil partnerships: 30.65% single 53.78% married 0.10% same sex partnership 3.27% separated 5.52% divorced 6.68% widowed
Sexual Orientation	The ONS published in 2017 data indicating that 1.2% of the household population in NI identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual
Men & Women Generally	The LCCC population (2017) was 51% female and 49% male. This reflects the overall NI position. Females outlive males (their life expectancy is longer) and therefore there will be somewhat more females in the population, and considerably more in the older age groups (and consequently more females with disabilities).
Disability	Using the same boundary/census data as above indicates that 18.29% of the population had a long-term health problem or disability.
Dependants	<p>People with dependants may have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and/or a dependent older person. Census data for LCCC 2011 suggests 46.3% of residents have dependants.</p> <p>Of households in LCCC District with dependent children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 7,407 families have one dependent child ➤ 6,394 families have two dependent children ➤ 5,014 families have three dependent children.

	<p>There is limited analysis of the dependant status of the NI and LCCC populations but there is some official data on the 75,000 carers' allowance claimants. DfC information suggests that women are more than twice as likely to be a claimant and therefore have care responsibilities for dependants who are elderly or disabled. 64% of claimants are 35-64 years old, and 31% are 65+.</p>
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Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe.
Political Opinion	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe.
Racial Group	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe. Some ethnic minorities, who are new to the area, may need access to translation of information, and their knowledge of open spaces may be limited.
Age	Older people may be less mobile than others and will need safe level surfaces in order to use open spaces. They may also need rest areas (seating or shelter) and well-lit areas, where they will feel safe. Accessible toilets will also be required for some older people.

Marital Status	No particular needs identified for people of different marital status
Sexual Orientation	No particular needs identified for people of different sexual orientation
Men & Women Generally	Need for safe spaces for women, areas should be well-lit, especially at night.
Disability	Paths, trails and greenways accessible for those in wheel chairs or with walking aids. Signage and information available in formats that those with visual/hearing impairments can access. Accessible toilet provision. People with mental health issues can benefit from the provision of more quality open spaces that are convenient to where they live.
Dependants	Carers of children/older people/disabled people need accessibility for buggies/wheelchairs/walking aids so that they can enjoy open spaces as a family group.

This council policy is about creating safe open spaces for everyone in the community. The council proactively encourages their use through programmes run for the socially isolated in our society. For example the CSAW Team deliver a range of programmes including walking groups, buggy blitz and other outdoor classes.

The signage on trails and paths within Parks has QR codes which can be used to access the internet and translated into multiple languages.

Needs

The main need is for accessibility for all. This includes those with disabilities, those with dependents and those who are older. People in these groups often have different needs from other groups. They may find access to the countryside difficult or limiting. If paths have steps, steep gradients, gates or small entrances, those in wheelchairs, using walking sticks, partially sighted, using pushchairs or those who are unsteady on their feet would find these obstacles difficult to overcome. Traditionally parks have been designed for able-bodied children. It

has been recognised that there is also a great need for play equipment for those children who have disability so that they too can access this play space.

There is also a need for some communities to access open spaces in their local area. If those with particular religious beliefs, political opinions or racial groups find it difficult to go into areas where people have different beliefs, opinions or are a different race, then the council has endeavoured to introduce Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play and Local Equipped Areas for Play. These play areas are usually convenient to residential areas. The council will ensure that the strategy provides equitable open space provision across all communities. Open spaces convenient to residential areas, also provides space for children and young people to play, who may not have access to transport.

It became apparent throughout the Covid 19 lockdown period that there is a need for additional suitable walking trails within the Council area. Some of the current paths are not suitable for groups with limited mobility. The Council realise that appropriate path provision is necessary, so that people with disabilities, those with dependents and older people, also have access to the countryside and a place to exercise. Due care has been taken by the Council to consider these groups and many new open spaces have been designed with these groups in mind. There has also been a focus on opening up local walking paths and trails. This has enabled those living in cities and towns to walk to the open space that they wish to use for exercise. This also has a positive effect on climate change by reducing the carbon footprint of individual households. Where appropriate, tactile maps and braille signs have been installed in parks to provide improved access for those who are visually impaired.

Experiences

The experience of those with disabilities, buggies/pushchairs or rollators is that at many open space areas, they may not have full access to a site due to poorly planned walkways or barriers to using them. The Council wants to avoid this, and so all greenways, paths and parks have been carefully pre-planned to take all end users into account. Tactile maps and braille signs have also been installed at a number of sites to enable access for those who are partially sighted. Children with disabilities have experienced a lack of play equipment that is suitable for their use, in traditional playparks.

Priorities

The priorities of the groups that could be affected by access (as stated in the table above), will be full accessibility to open spaces within the council area, so that they can achieve the same benefits as those who are not in these groups.

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Political Opinion	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Racial Group	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Age	Positive – more older people, particularly those with mobility issues, will be able to safely access and use open space areas, due to enhanced accessibility measures. Children will have access to open spaces which are convenient to where they live,	Minor

	<p>encouraging participation in physical activity.</p> <p>Teenagers will be able to access open spaces designed with their needs in mind – pump parks, skate parks.</p>	
Marital Status	No differential impact identified	
Sexual Orientation	No differential impact identified	
Men & Women Generally	No differential impact identified	
Disability	<p>Positive - People with certain disabilities, including those who are wheelchair users, use mobility aids, and who are visually impaired will find open spaces more accessible.</p> <p>Those who are visually impaired, can use tactile maps and braille signage.</p> <p>Those who have mental health disabilities can access safe open spaces where they can relax and feel close to nature.</p>	Minor
Dependants	Positive - People with dependants, including those who use buggies or wheelchairs, will find open spaces easier to use. Open spaces will have improved facilities which whole families	Minor

	can enjoy – with this comes social benefits.	
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* See Appendix 1 for details.

2(a) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief		Open spaces have been designed to accommodate all S75 groups. LCCC owned spaces are shared spaces and not specifically aimed to accommodate one particular S75 group. No further opportunities have been identified at this time as the needs of different groups have been considered fully in developing the strategy. However, if further issues arise, they will be addressed.
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		
Age		
Marital Status		
Sexual Orientation		
Men & Women Generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)

Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan: [add link to DAP]

- to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Yes

The Open Spaces Strategy will allow improved access so that more people with disabilities will be able to use the Council’s parks and greenways. Through this, there will be more interaction between disabled people and non-disabled people, and so this may work towards promoting more positive attitudes towards disabled people. There is also the potential for use of images of disabled people

in promotional material for council facilities and spaces, which will also raise awareness and promote positive attitudes.

- to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life?

Yes.

The Open Space Strategy works towards encouraging the participation of disabled people in public life, by providing opportunities for those with disabilities to enjoy outdoor spaces, by giving them access to these spaces. When planning new sites and refurbishing existing sites, the views of those with disabilities will be sought, to ensure improved accessibility. This strategy has the potential to contribute specifically to actions 3.2 – Target disabled people in council consultations and engagement initiatives and 3.3 Continue to work with disabled individuals and representative groups.

3 To what extent is the activity/policy/project likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – minor/major*
Religious Belief	This strategy should have a positive impact on Good Relations through the provision of shared facilities and spaces and positive promotion of these, to the whole population, as places where people can feel safe and secure.	Minor
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		

*See Appendix 1 for details.

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief		Not at present. However, further opportunities can be considered

Political Opinion		when plans are developed for specific projects that are undertaken. For example, new spaces/facilities or improvements to sites may need to be promoted to encourage people to use them. Also, the location may dictate who uses spaces or facilities.
Racial Group		

Multiple identity

Provide details of any data on the impact of the activity/policy/project on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

The Council recognises that no individual sits in one group and this has been given consideration.

Increased accessibility may particularly benefit older people with disabilities, younger people with disabilities, people who have dependent children or dependants who are disabled.

The development of the Council’s open spaces may be considered to be designed with people with disabilities, dependents and older people in mind, however these areas can be used by anyone in the community. Is it also recognised that those using parks, trails and greenways, for example those with disabilities, will fall into other groups. They may be young or old, male or female or from a specific religious background.

Part 3. Screening decision/outcome

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a full equality impact assessment on a proposed policy or project.

There are 3 possible outcomes:

- 1) **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no negative impacts identified. This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
- 2) **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor impacts identified which can easily be mitigated. Most activity will probably fall into this category.
- 3) **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant (and potentially negative) impact identified for one or more groups so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment.

Choose only one of these and provide reasons for your decision and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision reached.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
Option 1 Screen out – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section]	
Option 2 Screen out with mitigation – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation [complete mitigation section below]	This policy will be screened out with mitigation. We have concluded that the impacts will be minor and should generally be positive for all groups. However, in developing plans for open spaces, due consideration will be given to some issues identified, including accessibility and inclusion.
Option 3 Screen in for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	

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Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)

Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative activity/policy and ensure the mitigations are included in a revised/updated policy or plan.]

It has been concluded from this screening exercise that there is no need to carry out a full equality impact assessment at this time. This is because the needs of specific groups have been taken into account in developing the strategy, mitigation measures are being put in place and the potential impacts identified are all minor and positive.

The aims of this strategy:

1. Protect and enhance open space recognising its value in promoting health and well-being
2. Provide exciting and active places for children and young people's play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings
3. Support and encourage access to high quality open space close to where people live
4. Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride
5. Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change
6. Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open spaces

This strategy will be screened out with mitigation. This reasons for this are:

Mitigation factors – the geography of the council area will be studied closely and open spaces will be designed taking into account path width, path incline, seating provision and rest places at points around open spaces. Entrances to parks and greenways are designed to be accessible for wheelchair users and those pushing buggies. New playparks, and those which are being refurbished, will be designed

to provide play equipment for those in wheelchairs. The allotment site provides access for those with disabilities, in terms of accessible raised beds and potting benches and accessible toilets.

The screening has identified some needs and potential positive impacts on the following three groups – those with dependents, those with disabilities and those in the older age category. The impacts on these groups are now taken into consideration during construction works and the redevelopment of open spaces, and those impacts are minor or none. All measures have been taken to mitigate any potentially negative impacts on these groups.

Timetabling and prioritising for EQIA (only relevant to Option 3)

If the activity/policy has been ‘**screened in**’ for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the activity/policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people’s daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority’s functions	

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? No

Part 4. Monitoring

Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency? What will be monitored and how?

Where possible ‘Access Counters’ will be fitted to monitor footfall and use of the open spaces.

Periodic spot surveys will also take place to gather qualitative feedback from users and to gather comments for further improvement.

The Council’s Customer Care policy is advertised on all Park signage to encourage feedback – good or bad. All communication is responded to.

Local consultation on the potential to enhance or develop our open spaces will take place eg Lough Moss Playing Fields, Killeaton Open Space.

What specific equality monitoring will be done?

Play equipment for those with disabilities will be monitored and kept in working order.

Accessibility to facilities will be constantly reviewed and improved when identified.

Will be undertaken by:	Frequency (eg. Annually):
Name & Position/Job Title:	
Parks & Amenities Head of Service	The strategy will be reviewed every five years and the actions from the strategy will be reviewed every two years.
Will be signed-off by:	
Name & HoS Title:	
R J R Gillanders – Head of Parks & Amenities	

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Gail McKechnie	C-SAW Project Manager	06.10.21
Reviewed by Mary McSorley	Equality Officer	06.10.21
Approved by:		
Ross Gillanders	Head of Service	1 Dec 21

Note: On completion of the screening exercise, a copy of the completed Screening Report should be:

- ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy
- sent to the Equality Officer for the quarterly screening report to consultees and internal reporting
- published on the LCCC website accompanied by a copy of the policy/project/plan being screened
- made available to the public on request.

Evidence referenced in the screening report should also be available if requested.

Appendix 1 – Equality Commission guidance on equality impact

*Major impact:

- a) The policy/project is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality matters are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;

- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

Minor impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

No impact (none)

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations;
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1

Arran Crossey
48 Rathvarna Gardens
Lisburn, BT28 2UA

mob : 07518946794

Email:

acrossey1241690@mail.com

Dear Ross

The Worshipful District Master Officers and Sir Knights of the above District Chapter wish to ask for permission for the use of The Wallace Park on Saturday 26th August 2023 for the County Antrim Grand Black Chapter Last Saturday Demonstration. Upon approval to use the above venue I shall submit all necessary paperwork including risk assessments and insurance certificates to the relevant parties, a proposed event notification and an event management plan has been submitted to SAG in respect of the demonstration on the Saturday 26th laying out details of the event. I trust that this will meet with the approval of the Council and would ask if you could inform me of your decision in due course.

Yours Sincerely

ArranCrossey
District Reg

On behalf of

Wor Sir Knight James Shaw
Lockhart
Worshipful District Master

Wor Sir Knight Allen
Deputy District Master



Leisure & Community Development Committee

7th February 2023

Report from:

Head of Parks & Amenities

Item for Decision

TITLE: Request to Set Aside the Byelaws

Background and Key Issues:

1. A request has been received on behalf of Moira Presbyterian Church to hold a multi denominational religious service in Moira Demesne on Sunday 9th April from 0700-0730 hrs to celebrate Easter.
2. The event if approved will require Council temporarily setting aside the Byelaws which prohibit the following activities to preach, lecture or take part in any meeting for political, religious or any purpose or take part in any public show, performance or demonstration, except with the prior consent of the Council and in such part of the facility as may be set aside for that purpose.
3. If minded to support this request then with Council's approval, this Byelaw can be set aside for the duration of the event. The organisers will then be required to engage with the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and comply with all usual booking requirements.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members

1. approve the request to hold a multi-denominational religious service in Moira Demesne on a Sunday 9th April to celebrate Easter; and
2. that the Council approve the setting aside of the Byelaws to enable this request to progress; and
3. that the power to approve future uncontentious repeat requests (Committee approval having been previously granted) be delegated to the Head of Parks & Amenities.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Nil

Screening:

Equality and Good Relations

No

Environmental Impact Assessment

No

Rural Impact Assessment

No

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:



Leisure & Community Development Committee

7th February 2023

Report from:

Head of Parks & Amenities

Item for Decision

TITLE: Tree & Woodland Strategy

Background and Key Issues:

1. At the December 2022 meeting of the Leisure & Community Development Committee, Members approved the Ash Dieback Action Plan. Members were informed that an overarching Tree & Woodland Strategy would be forthcoming for consideration.
2. This Strategy aims to support the Council's commitment to combatting climate change. Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded regions in Europe with less than 9% woodland cover. This is lower than the Republic of Ireland (11%), the UK (13%) and European Union (38%). Within Northern Ireland, the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area has the lowest levels of tree cover. With trees playing a vital role in tackling climate change and supporting wildlife, it is vital that tree cover is increased within the Council area. The Council values the importance of trees in our local environment and are committed to their protection. This is acknowledged through the Council's Corporate Plan which includes as a corporate action under Strategic Theme 4 'Where we live' to promote use of our natural environment, open spaces and waterways, with improved facilities.
3. The Tree & Woodland Strategy will also:

- Provide a framework to manage and maintain a healthy, balanced and sustainable tree population which can cope with predicted climactic changes and the impact of diseases, such as ash dieback.
 - Ensure the most efficient use of resources.
 - Decrease the risk to public safety from potentially hazardous trees.
 - Detail the Council's specific policy on levels and standards of tree management.
 - Increase public awareness of the value of trees in the environment.
4. The Strategy explains how good tree management involves a variety of activities that:
- Maintain public safety.
 - Resolve conflicts between the tree and its immediate environment.
 - Enhance amenity value by promoting desirable growth characteristics.
 - Benefit ecology and wildlife.
 - Maximise the lifespan of trees and the benefits that they provide.
 - Ensures woodland restoration.
5. Removal of trees or indeed the reluctance of the Council to remove a healthy tree is often the source of criticism levelled at the Council by those who do not fully comprehend the story behind each action. This Strategy seeks to explain the need for such actions and what measures the Council will take to mitigate the effects.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members approve the Tree & Woodland Strategy which will form the basis and rationale for much of Parks & Amenities' arboriculture work in the coming years.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Nil.

Screening:

Equality and Good Relations	Yes	Environmental Impact Assessment	No	Rural Impact Assessment	Yes
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SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

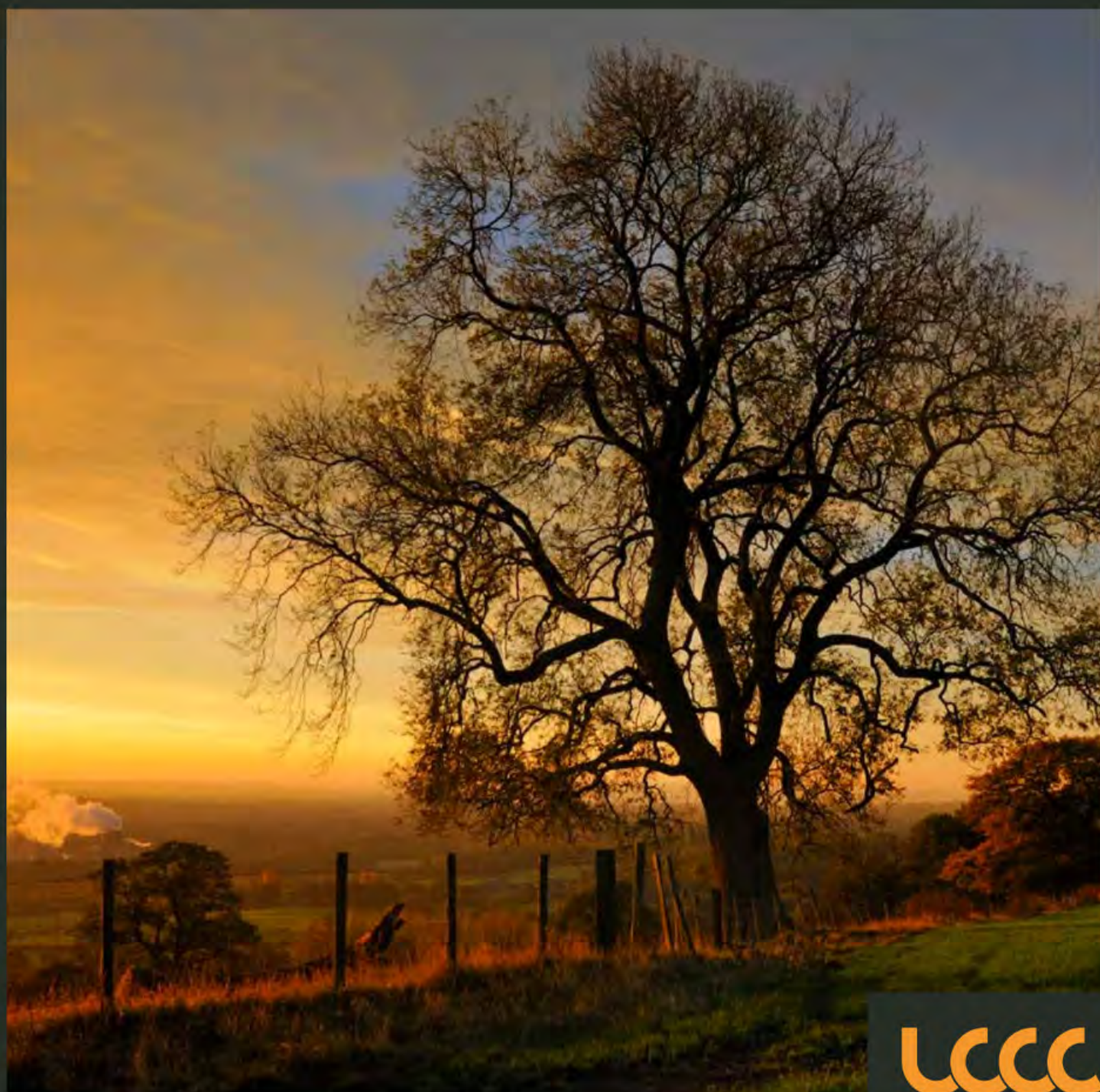
No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?
If Yes, please insert date:

Tree & Woodland Strategy



The Elected Members of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council in August 2019 supported the following Notice of Motion, brought before it,

“This Council notes the recent IPCC report on the impacts of climate breakdown. It requests an urgent report to assess the impact of the activities of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on greenhouse gas emissions to include exploring what mitigation measures can be put in place and the establishment of a working group to bring the issues of climate breakdown to the fore in the Council structures and actions, local communities and businesses, as well as formulating a climate adaption plan.”

The Working Group was to inform and shape the development of a Council Policy in the area of the Environment and Sustainability giving a commitment that the Council will carry out its activities and functions in a manner which minimises any potential negative environmental impact and also states the principles of sustainable development will be integrated throughout all Council activities.

This Strategy aims to support the Council's commitment to combating climate change. Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded regions in Europe with less than 9% woodland cover. This is lower than the Republic of Ireland (11%), the UK (13%) and European Union (38%). Within Northern Ireland, the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) area has the lowest levels of tree cover. With trees playing a vital role in tackling climate change and supporting wildlife, it is vital that tree cover is increased within the Council area.

The Council values the importance of trees in our local environment and are committed to their protection. This is acknowledged through the Council's Corporate Plan which includes as a corporate action under Strategic Theme 4 'Where we live' to promote use of our natural environment, open spaces and waterways, with improved facilities.

I am therefore delighted that as the Chair of Leisure & Community Development Committee, this strategy is being brought forward to protect and enhance our natural assets for generations to come.



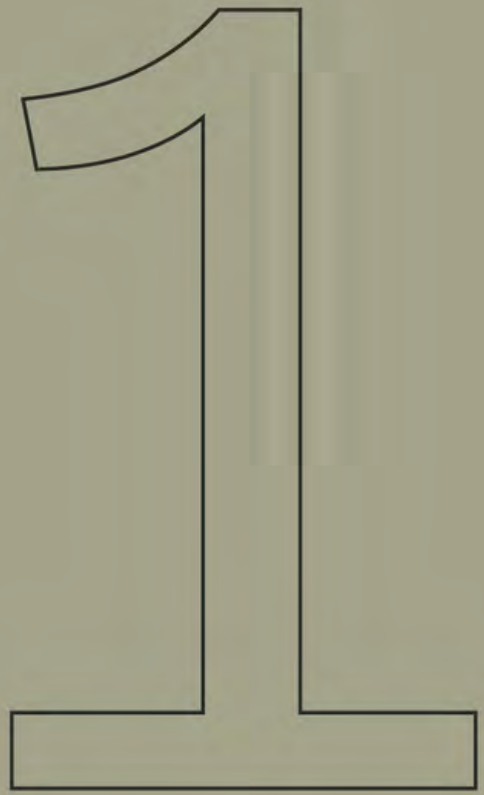
COUNCILLOR AARON MCINTYRE
Chair of Leisure & Community Development Committee

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Strategy 212 Overview



Trees are of huge environmental and ecological importance. They enhance their environment by providing oxygen and improving air quality and climate amelioration. Trees conserve water, and preserve soil, thus reducing flood risk. They are crucial for wildlife as they provide food and habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna.

TREES ARE MAJOR COMPONENTS FOR FOREST ECO-SYSTEMS, BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

Their presence lessens pollution by reducing carbon, subsequently contributing to mitigating the impact of climate change. Trees are a valuable part of every community. Their presence in our parks, playgrounds, gardens, roadsides, villages and towns create a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing environment.

Trees have been scientifically proven to improve mental and physical health. They provide a calming environment, which helps to reduce stress. In Lisburn and Castlereagh our trees are highly valued due to the numerous benefits that they provide.

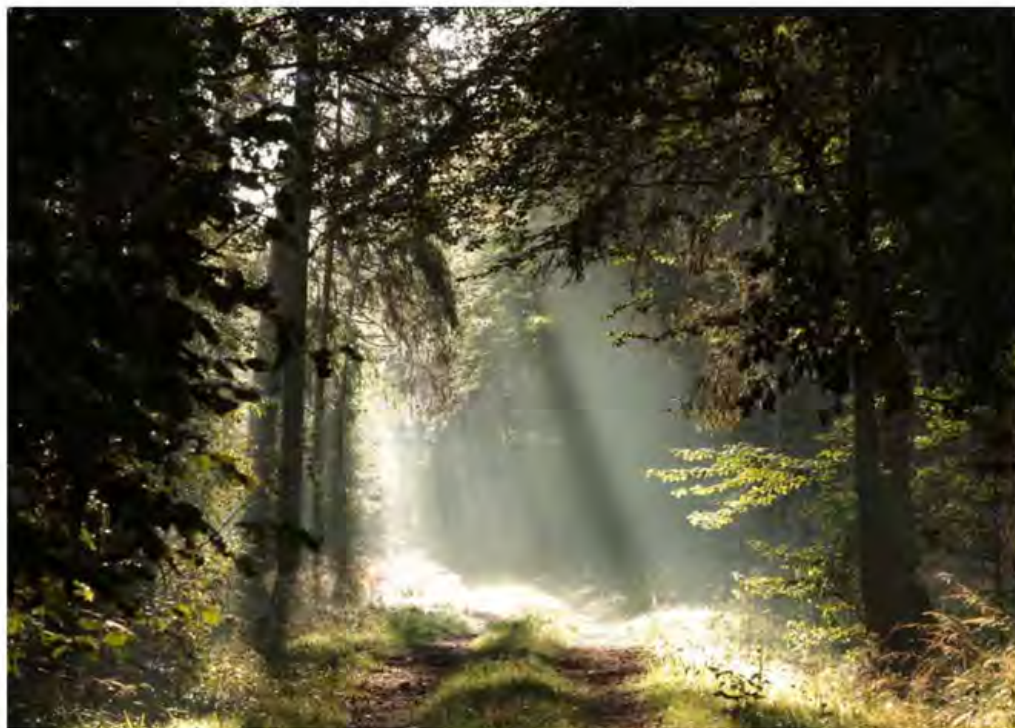
The government published 'Sustainable Development, the UK Strategy and Urban Tree Strategies' in 1994. This report recognised the importance of trees and the huge contribution that they make to public well-being and the environment. As a result, the former Department of the Environment as well as the Office of the former Deputy Prime Minister encouraged local authorities to develop their own tree management strategies.

The council will establish an inventory of trees which cover all of its land holdings. This inventory and strategy will provide a framework of policies and procedures to enable the council to sustainably manage its tree stock in the long term.

1.2

Executive Summary

THROUGH THE TREE & WOODLAND STRATEGY, THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF THE TREE RESOURCE WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND PRESERVED. THIS WILL ENSURE ITS DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH IN THE LONG-TERM.



Manage and maintain a healthy, balanced and sustainable tree population.

1.3

The Tree & Woodland Strategy for LCCC will:

Provide a framework to manage and maintain a healthy, balanced and sustainable tree population which can cope with predicted climactic changes and the impact of diseases, such as ash dieback.

Ensure the most efficient use of resources.

Decrease the risk to public safety from potentially hazardous trees.

Detail the Council's specific policy on levels and standards of tree management.

Increase public awareness of the value of trees in the environment.

 Part 1

 Strategy
 Overview

Enhance the quality of life by providing environmental, ecological and aesthetic benefits

 1.4

Trees in Lisburn & Castlereagh

TREES IN LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE COUNCIL AREA. THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE URBAN AND RURAL LANDSCAPE.

They enhance the quality of life by providing environmental, ecological and aesthetic benefits. Trees in the Council area are all situated on land which is affected by human activity. These activities can have an impact on the health of trees and their environment; therefore, a management strategy is crucial.

 1.5

Tree Management Involves a Variety of Activities That:

Maintain public safety.

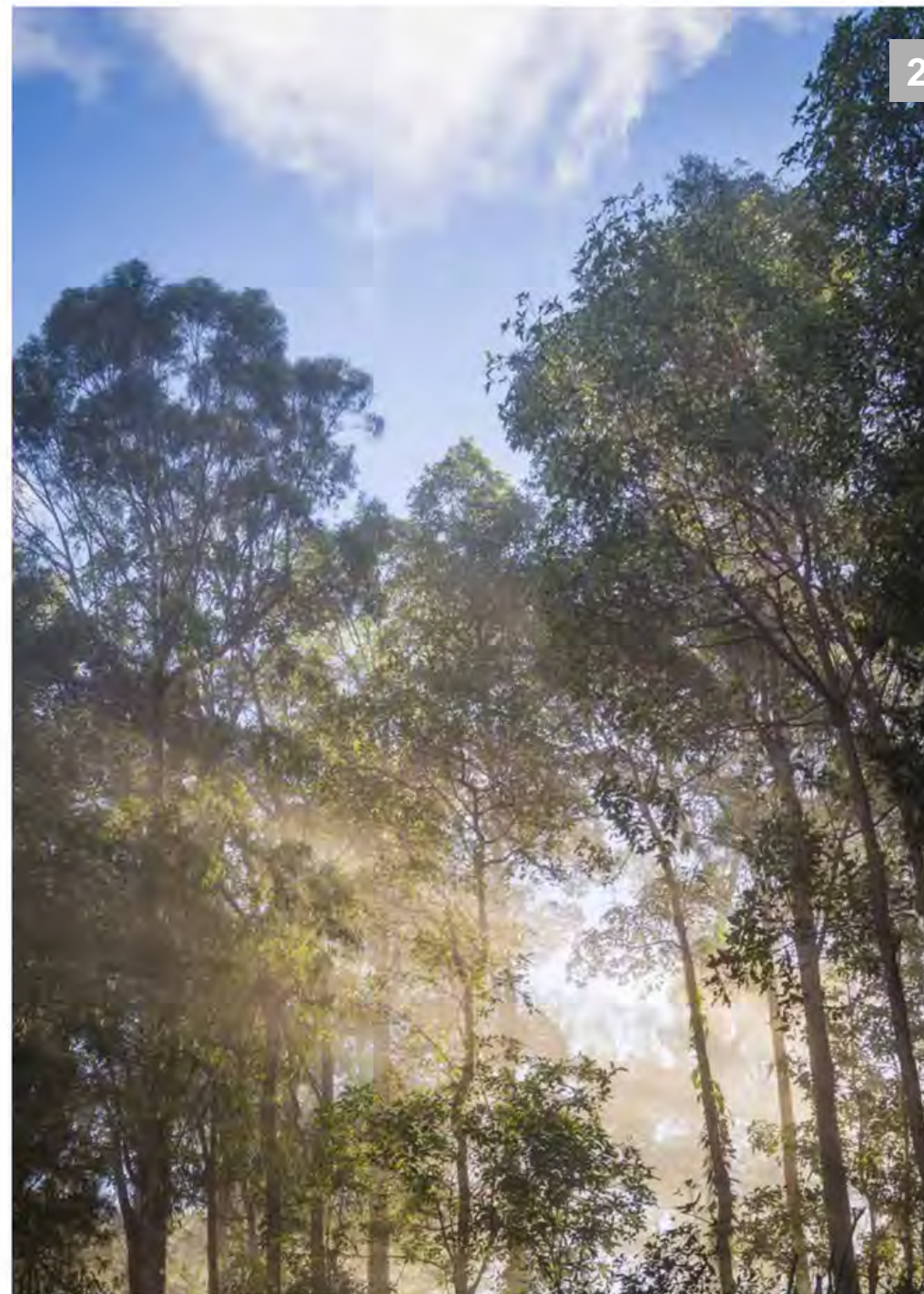
Resolve conflicts between the tree and its immediate environment.

Enhance amenity value by promoting desirable growth characteristics.

Benefit ecology and wildlife.

Maximise the lifespan of trees and the benefits that they provide.

Woodland restoration.



Part 1

Strategy Overview

Research has shown that trees can benefit mental health.



1.6 Health & Wellbeing

TREES NOT ONLY IMPROVE OUR PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH WHEN WE ARE NEAR THEM, BUT THEY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO KEEPING OUR BODIES HEALTHY.

These benefits include:

Improving air quality - Trees can help improve urban air quality on a local scale by forming a barrier between people and pollutants. Such pollutants are known to contribute to respiratory conditions such as asthma.

Reducing stress - Walking among trees reduces levels of cortisol, a hormone associated with stress. Research has shown that people living in greener surroundings experience lower levels of stress.

Alleviating depression - Research has shown that trees can benefit mental health. Nature based activities can help to improve mental health conditions like anxiety and depression.

Shading us from the sun - Damage to the ozone layer and rising temperatures due to climate change have resulted in higher instances of malignant melanomas. Therefore, the shade that trees can provide is hugely beneficial as it provides a protective barrier to UV rays, particularly in the middle of the day.

Encouraging physical activity - Parks and other green spaces provide attractive areas for people to exercise. Studies have shown that people who use these green spaces are more likely to achieve the recommended level of physical activity.

Children who have access to green spaces spend less time in front of screens...This in turn reduces childhood obesity.

Reducing obesity - children in today's generation have a more sedentary lifestyle due to increased "screen time". However, children who live close to, or have access to green spaces are more likely to spend less time in front of screens and engage in physical activity. This in turn reduces childhood obesity.

Bringing people together - Trees strengthen the unique character of a place and encourage local pride. Woodlands can be used as an educational resource and to bring groups together for activities like walking and bird-watching. Children can play in trees and discover their sense of adventure.





Part 1

Strategy Overview

Over 3000 trees have been planted in available open spaces outside of woodlands.

1.7

Tree Planting

A LARGE AND SUSTAINED PROGRAM OF TREE PLANTING IS CRUCIAL TO MINIMISE THE IMPACT OF TREE DECLINE IN THE COUNCIL AREA. THIS WILL ALSO HELP TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

Initially a significant change in the council's tree population will be Evident following actions arising from the Council's Ash Die Back Management Plan. Eventually newly planted trees will develop and grow into mature trees. This will have a huge and positive impact on the landscape. Nine hectares of woodland have been created within the council area during 2022 and over 3000 trees have been planted in available open spaces which are outside of woodlands.

Of note is the new copse of 100 Oak trees established at Moira Demesne. This group, and future groups like it, offer a natural resource providing positive benefits for centuries to come.

Current tree planting initiatives through council area include:-

Council area wide tree planting initiatives. LCCC aims to plant 10,000 new native trees and 1000m of native hedgerows spread throughout the council area per year for the next ten years.

Establishment of 30 Hectares of new woodland throughout the council area by the end of 2023 in conjunction with stakeholders including government agencies and landowners.



The council aims to manage and improve all of its tree assets.

1.8

The Trees in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

LCCC MANAGES ITS ENTIRE TREE STOCK WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MULTIPLE ORGANISATIONS AND PROFESSIONALS INCLUDING THE WOODLAND TRUST. THESE TREES ARE CATEGORISED AS INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS, TREE GROUPS AND WOODLANDS.

The asset sites are spread over the council area and hold a vast array of species, ages and types. From individual specimen trees found in Wallace Park to the dense, mature woodland of Hillsborough Forest with over 15,000 trees, the council aims to manage and improve all of its tree assets.

The Tree & Woodland Strategy will outline the works and considerations necessary to effectively manage the Council's tree resource. Each activity will be outlined in detail. The standards for each activity will be outlined to meet with industry recommendations and codes of practice.

It is also necessary to outline how trees will be managed in the future. Consideration must be given to planned housing developments, road improvements and developments, as well as the effects of disease and climate change. The Tree & Woodland Strategy aims to ensure that these additional factors are managed in order to sustain and maintain the tree resource of LCCC.

The policies and procedures employed in this strategy will adhere to all relevant regulations and legislation. The strategy will be standardised so that it can be used by landowners as a guide for the management of their trees, particularly those who allow public access to their land.

1.9

Ecology & Trees

TREES ARE THE MAJOR COMPONENT OF WOODLAND AND FOREST ECOSYSTEMS BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. TREES SUPPORT A HUGE RANGE OF FLORA AND FAUNA.

Trees are also closely connected to fungi. Some fungal species are pathogenic and thus harmful, but others have a symbiotic relationship with trees. Soil fungi such as mycorrhiza, in particular are vital for the tree's survival and well-being, converting organic matter into nutrients which the tree can absorb.

Part 1

Strategy Overview

Restore a minimum of 20 hectares of woodland over the next decade.



1.10

Strategic Aims & Objectives

This Tree & Woodland Strategy will outline a framework for Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to manage its trees by achieving the following objectives:

Conserve and preserve existing trees, as well as maintaining the number and quality. Creation and renovation of woodland within the council area. Advance and expand ongoing tree planting on public and private land in order to address the current decline of trees and to attempt to mitigate the current and future impact of pests and diseases.

The aim is to restore a minimum of 20 hectares of woodland over the next decade. This will be achieved through the removal of non-native understory species such as Laurel and Rhododendron.

Increase the percentage tree cover within the council area.

LCCC aims to plant 10,000 new native trees and 1000m of native hedgerows spread throughout the council area per year for the next ten years.

Establishment of 30 Hectares of new woodland throughout the council area by the end of 2023 in conjunction with stakeholders including government agencies and landowners.

Protect public safety by ensuring that trees are assessed and inspected in an organised and scheduled way.

Continue to manage and inspect the existing tree population on a 2 year cyclic basis. Prioritise tree surgery works identified on a risk based approach.

1.11

Policy Background

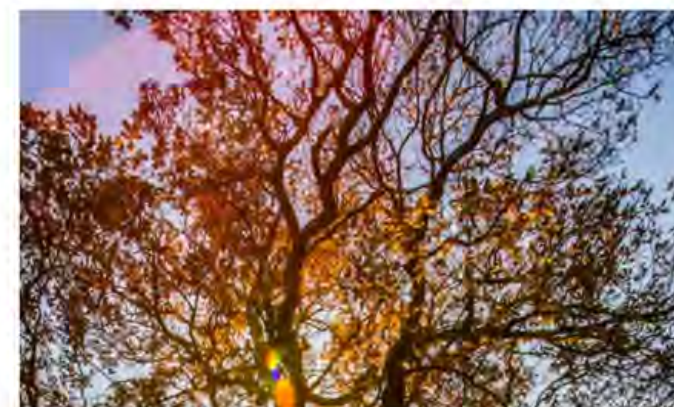
LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCILS RESPONSIBILITIES

The council is responsible for the trees that it owns and must ensure that public safety is protected in order that the trees do not pose a risk.

A multi-disciplinary body called the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) has produced national guidelines for the safe management of trees 'Common Sense Risk Management of Trees'. These guidelines consider the risk posed by certain trees, as well as recognising the benefits that trees provide on many levels. These guidelines have now been recognised as a benchmark in the industry and have been used in a number of litigation cases.

These measures are vital in order to provide the council with evidence and defence if proceedings are brought due to tree failure.

As landowners, LCCC are responsible for the trees that they own. It is the responsibility of the council to ensure that trees are inspected regularly. The council should also hold an accurate inventory of its trees. Inspections should be carried out at intervals dependent on the degree of risk posed by particular trees or groups of trees. Any maintenance work that is recommended must be carried out in a timely manner and this work must be documented. These measures are vital in order to provide the council with evidence and defence if proceedings are brought due to tree failure.



1.12

Trees & Development & Tree Preservation Orders

LCCC PLANNING DEAL WITH ALL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS TREES IN RELATION TO ANY ASPECT OF PLANNING. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONSULT

<https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/planning>

1.13

Other Statutory Considerations

Felling License - if trees are felled in woodlands, then a felling license is required. This will be issued by the Forestry Commission under Section 9 of the Forestry Act 1967. If an area of more than 5 cubic meters of growing trees are to be felled a license is mandatory.

1.14

Landscape & Ecological Considerations

THE VALUE OF TREES AND WOODLANDS IN OUR LANDSCAPE IS WIDELY KNOWN. IN ADDITION, THE ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF TREES AND WOODLANDS IS WELL DOCUMENTED.

When carrying out work on its trees, LCCC must have due regard to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. This provides protection for nesting birds and bats. If tree works are to be carried out, then all necessary checks must be performed to avoid the disturbance of protected species. If appropriate these works should be postponed and expert advice sought.

Veteran trees should be protected and managed in order to maximize their habitat value and life span.

This Strategy has been devised to adhere all sustainability, biodiversity and environmental statutory requirements including the Duty for Sustainable Development and the Biodiversity Duty (Wild Life and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 (“WANE Act”) as well as any future legislative requirements on climate change and the environment.

The Strategy also supports and builds on the Council’s Local Biodiversity Action Plan dated January 2018.

Veteran trees should be protected and managed in order to maximize their habitat value and life span.

If tree planting is thoughtfully planned and considered it will provide effective cooling for buildings, reducing the need for air cooling.



1.15

Trees & Climate Change

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING NOW. THE MAIN CAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE EMISSIONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE AND OTHER GREENHOUSE GASES. BY THE END OF THE CENTURY IT IS THOUGHT THAT TEMPERATURES COULD RISE BY AS MUCH AS 3 TO 5 DEGREES C.

Climate change is known to be ‘the greatest long-term challenge facing the world today’. Trees will play a crucial role in our environment if the temperatures rise as anticipated.

Forest eco-systems play a vital role in addressing the global impact of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the atmosphere, producing oxygen, retaining water and reducing atmospheric temperatures.

There will be a greater need for effective shade in towns and cities where temperatures are exacerbated by heat and light reflection from buildings. If tree planting is thoughtfully planned and considered it will provide effective cooling for buildings, reducing the need for air cooling. In areas next to public buildings, outdoor facilities, roads and pavements, bus stops and carparks shade will be necessary. Vulnerable members of society in areas such as care facilities and schools will also be protected by shade.

Another alarming result of climate change is flash flooding. The presence of trees and woodlands can retain large volumes of water, attenuate run-off and have a stabilising effect on the soil. This will limit erosion and reduce the risk of landslides.

It is inevitable that climate change will have a negative impact on the tree population. Drought conditions are harmful to shallow rooting trees such as hornbeam and beech. If these droughts are one-off events, then the trees will likely recover. However increased temperatures mean that this will be more frequent, and the trees will suffer damage. The impact of increased high winds, waterlogged soils, particularly if deciduous trees are in leaf, will have a detrimental effect on the tree population. In addition, increased temperatures in summer and winter will favour existing pathogens, causing more problems.

Tree owners must protect and maintain the current tree resource and expand it where possible. Landscape architects and tree managers should consider the effects of climate change when selecting trees for planting schemes.



1.16

The Need for Tree Planting

OVER RECENT DECADES THE TREE POPULATION HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY. IN THE 1970S DUTCH ELM DISEASE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF THOUSANDS OF MATURE TREES FROM THE LANDSCAPE.

The aging mature tree population and the incidence of other problems such as ash dieback have also led to the decline of mature trees. A large proportion of trees in the rural hedgerows are ash, therefore the impact of ash dieback will have a continued effect on the landscape. Commercial and residential development continues to have an impact on the mature tree population.

In future years, the council will notably expand tree planting initiatives in order to meet the Tree & Woodland Strategy objectives and targets detailed in the action plan. In order to ensure that the required number of trees are available, tree officers will liaise with nursery suppliers regarding production methods, stock requirements and availability.

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council has established an independent tree nursery in the Council area. The Nursery aims to provide tree stock to balance the dependence on imported trees to maintain and augment tree stocks. The nursery aims to be UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown Assurance Scheme (UKISG) accredited. UKISG is the benchmark for tree procurement at the Woodland Trust.

150,000 new trees have been sown since the start of 2022.

150,000 trees have been prepared for sowing.

By September 2023 250,000 1 year old saplings will be ready to plant throughout the council area.

150,000 trees to be produced for planting per year.

The Nursery aims to provide tree stock to balance the dependence on imported trees to maintain and augment tree stocks.



The council will promote the planting of native and naturalised trees.

1.17

Native, Naturalised & Non-Native Trees

CURRENTLY LCCC PLANT A BROAD RANGE OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE TREES.

As much as possible, the council will promote the planting of native and naturalised trees.

However, the planting of non-native trees may be necessary in some instances such as areas with environmental challenges. A robust and resilient tree population will be created by using a diverse range of species and the avoidance of mono-culture planting. This aims to withstand the impact of climate change.

1.18

Sourcing of Nursery Stock

BIOSECURITY IS CRUCIAL.

A range of measures have been established by the UK Government to maintain biosecurity including European Plant passports. The council endeavours to follow these control guidelines.

Plant health controls include:

Phytosanitary certificates.

Pre-notification.

Document checks.

Identity checks.

Physical checks.



1.19

Identification of Seed Sources / Seed Provenance

FOR THE MOST PART, SUPPLIERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO PRODUCE STOCK FROM BRITISH AND IRISH ORIGIN SEED SOURCES.

Due to climate change, the need for species from European sources may be required. In this instances, demonstrable bio-security measures must be in place involving effective quarantine procedures and certification.

1.20

Description of Production Processes

WHETHER SEEDS ARE SOURCED FROM WITHIN THE UK OR OTHERWISE, APPROPRIATE PRE-SOWING TREATMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED.

Rigorous handling and protection measures will be necessary to ensure that trees arrive on site in prime condition.

Container grown stock should be grown in suitable containers with adequate soil volume to optimise tree growth and an evenly formed root system.

The council will continue to engage with nursery suppliers in order to explore a range of procurement and partnership options. This will ensure that adequate volumes of healthy stock are available to support planting schemes.

1.21

Design & Aftercare

New tree planting schemes and designs must complement and enhance the character of the local landscape. Consideration must be given to the space available when selecting tree species and its planting density. This will ensure that these trees can develop into healthy, mature specimens. Aftercare must also be planned to promote tree development.

1.22

Ash Dieback

THE ASH IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON NATIVE TREES IN LCCC, DUE TO THE DECLINE OF THE ELM TREE. THE ASH IS COMMONLY FOUND IN WOODLANDS, FIELD HEDGES AND ALONG ROAD CORRIDORS. A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE POPULATION ARE MATURE TREES WHICH ARE IN DECLINE. ASH DIEBACK SYNDROME IS CAUSED BY A NUMBER OF FACTORS.

Ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) was first reported in the UK in 2012 on imported nursery stock. It was subsequently observed in the wider environment in 2013. This disease is now widespread across the UK and is particularly advanced in southern and eastern counties of England. Ash dieback is present in Northern Ireland and has been noted in LCCC. Ongoing monitoring has revealed that this disease is well established in the Council's Ash population. Ash dieback was first discovered in Europe in 1992 and unfortunately has resulted in many countries suffering up to 90 percent mortality in their ash trees.

The Council is working to manage the disease within the Council area and is working closely with other councils to plan for the future.

The Council's first priority is to preserve public safety due to the risk posed by the disease on our road corridors and public spaces. Unfortunately, the management of this disease will inevitably result in long-term effects on the rural landscape. Some areas may lose all mature trees.

The Council is working to manage the disease within the Council area and is working closely with other councils to plan for the future.

SYMPTOMS OF ASH DIEBACK



The council will continue to engage with nursery suppliers in order to explore a range of procurement and partnership options.



Tree Management Actions



Tree Inspection

The safety of trees is nearly always the responsibility of the owner of the land on which they grow; but there are some exceptions, such as when a rental agreement requires the tenants of a property to manage the trees.



THE TREE OWNER OR MANAGER HAS A 'COMMON LAW' DUTY OF CARE TO: 'TAKE REASONABLE CARE TO AVOID ACTS OR OMISSIONS WHICH THEY CAN REASONABLY FORESEE WOULD BE LIKELY TO INJURE THEIR NEIGHBOUR'.

The tree owner also has a duty under the Occupiers Liability Acts to take reasonable steps to ensure visitors or trespassers on their land are safe. In practice this means that if a tree fails and causes damage to a person or property then the tree owner may be liable. The chances of making a claim, however, would usually depend on whether the owner had been negligent; for example, if the tree was obviously unsafe through damage or disease, and they failed to act to prevent the incident occurring. Therefore if you own trees it is sensible to have them regularly inspected by a competent arboriculturist.

On this basis, it is assumed that a tree survey or tree inspection will normally have been conducted according to a clear brief, prepared in discussion with the client or employer, in order to take account of all relevant factors, including the safety of people and property.

Part 2

Tree Management Actions

This Tree & Woodland Strategy aims to strike a balance between public safety and the ecological and landscape value of trees.

2.2

Inspection Criteria

TREE INSPECTION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND CHANGES IN THE TREE'S CONDITION DOCUMENTED. THESE CHANGES SHOULD BE ACTED UPON IF NECESSARY TO PREVENT INJURY OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Criteria to be considered are: age, size, species, location, health and condition, site usage, hazard risk and landscape and ecological value.

This Tree & Woodland Strategy aims to strike a balance between public safety and the ecological and landscape value of trees. In order to protect and retain trees as much as possible, the minimum necessary work should be carried out to protect the public.

The best time for tree inspection is from mid-summer to autumn. This is when trees are in full leaf. However due to the huge amount of trees in LCCC inventory, inspections must be carried out throughout the year.

Factors such as construction and extreme weather should also be considered.

2.3

Inspection Procedures

TREE INSPECTION PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE TO MINIMISE THE RISK TO PUBLIC AND PROPERTY. THESE PROCEDURES ADHERE TO GUIDELINES AND INDUSTRY RECOMMENDATIONS.

Informal inspections can be carried out following contact by the public, site officers or other organisations.

Formal inspections are those carried out on a regular basis by council staff. These staff will be required to have undertaken basic tree inspection training.

Detailed inspections are to be carried out by appropriately qualified arboricultural consultants.

Resolution of conflicts can be achieved by Tree Maintenance Operations, but there is often a need to consider other measures such as modifying the use or management of the surrounding land.



2.4

Assessment of Risk & Inspection Targeting

Information about priority areas for planned inspections is provided to ensure that work is appropriately planned in accordance with the level of risk.

Cyclical inspections will also be undertaken on these priority areas. Trees that require more frequent inspection will be flagged up and monitored.

2.5

Tree Maintenance Operations

Generally, trees develop in balance with their environment both above and below ground. Conflicts with people and property can, however, result from natural processes of growth and dieback or from the effects of damage caused by severe weather, pests or diseases. Equally, human activities can lead to conflicts, if these activities affect the growth or structural integrity of trees, or increase or adversely modify their exposure to the wind by the removal of other trees or the demolition or construction of buildings.

Human activities can also bring people and other targets closer to trees. Any such conflict can have serious implications for the health and welfare of the tree(s) concerned and/or the safety of people and property. Resolution of conflicts can be achieved by Tree Maintenance Operations, but there is often a need to consider other measures such as modifying the use or management of the surrounding land. The need for Tree Maintenance Operations will sometimes become self-evident to tree owners and site managers in the course of their regular duties. In many circumstances, however, there will be a need for systematic surveys and inspections to be conducted by competent persons, including where appropriate external experts with skills in areas such as the recognition and interpretation of the origin and significance of symptoms caused by damage or physiological stress.

A client's initial desire for Tree Maintenance Operations is often based on particular circumstances, might not necessarily be appropriate in other respects. In particular, when specifying Tree Maintenance Operations, there is always a need to take account of the effects of the work on the long-term growth and the future management needs of the tree.

Equally, before work commences, it is important that its appropriateness is verified in the light of any change in circumstances that might have occurred in the meantime.

Part 2

Tree Management Actions

2.6

Identification & Generation of Work

Tree maintenance work comes from both internal and external sources:

Detailed inspections by trained arboricultural staff – as part of previously detailed inspection procedures.

Ad-hoc inspections by specialist arboriculturalists – resulting from enquiries from the general public.

Enquiries from council officers.

Cyclical maintenance.

Emergency works (high winds etc).

2.7

Tree Management Priorities

All enquiries are assessed and prioritised and work carried out accordingly. Factors to be considered include risk to life and property, risk of potential claims, proposed remedial work, safety, long term tree health, cost effectiveness.

2.8

Standards of Work

All works will be completed to the current industry standard as described in BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations.

2.9

Modern Arboricultural Practice

Scientific research is used as a basis for modern arboricultural practice. This approach is used to minimise adverse effects on trees. The council is dedicated to following the latest arboricultural management practices. In some instances, the visual appearance of work rather than how it will affect tree health in the long term is judged incorrectly.

Scientific research is used as a basis for modern arboricultural practice. This approach is used to minimise adverse effects on trees.

2.10

Council Specifications

The Councils' specifications are drawn from the latest arboricultural practice. Institutions such as the Arboricultural Association and the Institute of Chartered Foresters provide regular updates to industry best practice. The Council incorporates the best practice feasible and re-evaluates their policy regularly.

2.11

British Standards

British standards provide professional guidance in tree management related matters. These standards include:

BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations.

BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

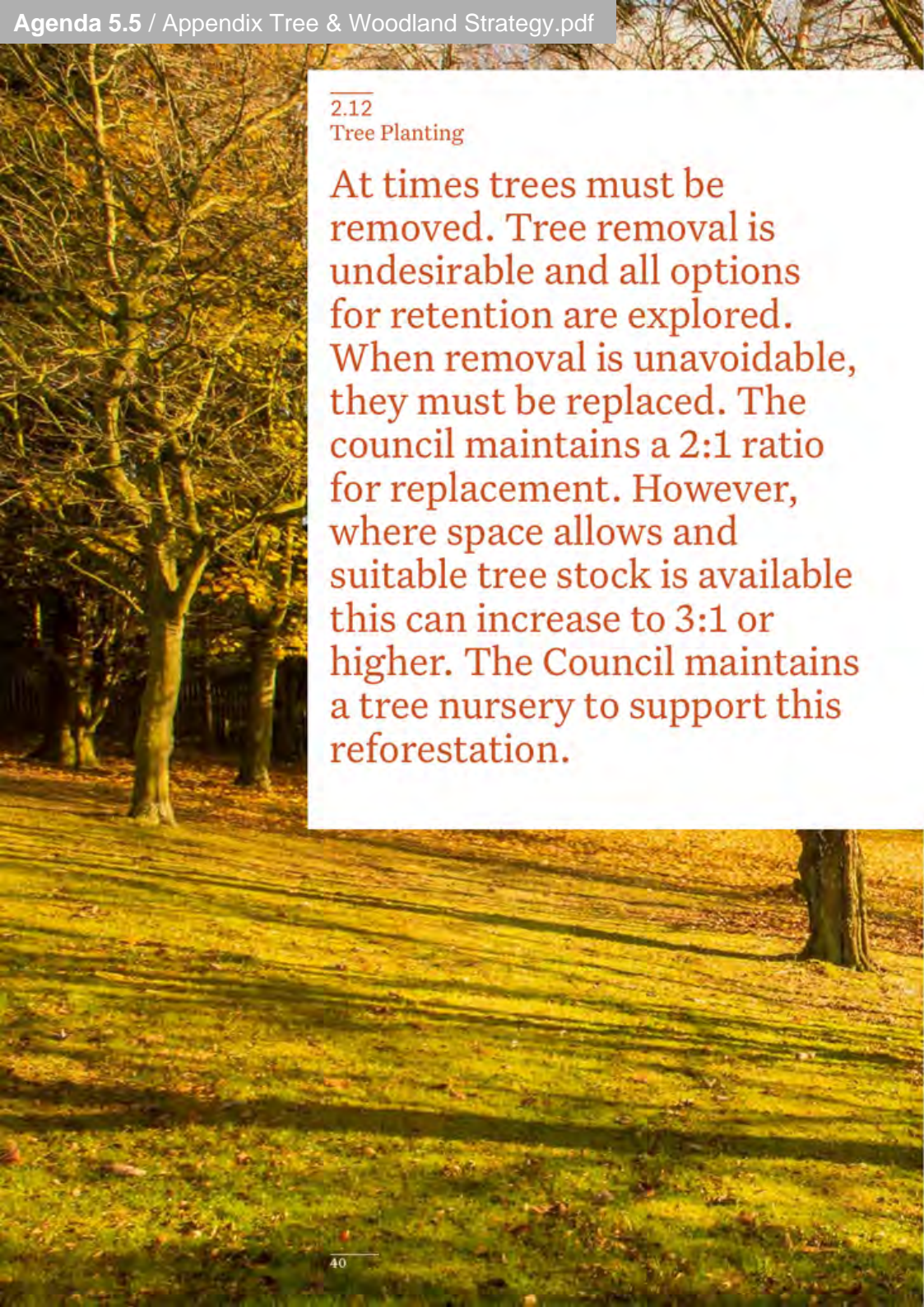
BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations.





2.12
Tree Planting

At times trees must be removed. Tree removal is undesirable and all options for retention are explored. When removal is unavoidable, they must be replaced. The council maintains a 2:1 ratio for replacement. However, where space allows and suitable tree stock is available this can increase to 3:1 or higher. The Council maintains a tree nursery to support this reforestation.



Part 2

Tree Management Actions

All tree populations should be managed sustainably in order to conserve or enhance its status.

2.13
Sustainability

Sustainably-managed trees and woodlands meet the needs of wildlife while supporting livelihoods, local amenity and providing many other ecosystem services, such as carbon storage and flood risk mitigation. Trees are so important for so many reasons that they should not be overexploited or poorly managed to the detriment of any of these finely-balanced interests.

2.14
Environmental Sustainability

All tree populations should be managed sustainably in order to conserve or enhance its status. If there are losses then trees should be replaced. If this is not done it will lead to a decline in the tree inventory. This has been recognized globally to be of huge importance. The UK Forestry Standard 1998 outlines the governments approach to sustainable forestry.

BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations.

Maintain or enhance the tree population.

Facilitate the removal of dangerous trees.

Promote bio-diversity and conserve the tree/forest ecosystem.

Conserve veteran trees.

Create a tree population with a balance of age and class.

Optimise the use of timber and products from tree management.



Part 2

Tree Management Actions

2.15

Utilisation of Timber

The Council evaluates all forest/ tree product materials produced during their activities. Wood and materials are used where possible. For example timber from managed trees is often used to create features such as benches within the local area.

The Council also offer a Wood Bank providing free firewood to help address fuel poverty.

Use and re-cycling of wood waste. Woodchip produced from Council activities is re-used as mulch, path surfacing and landscape material through the Council area.

2.16

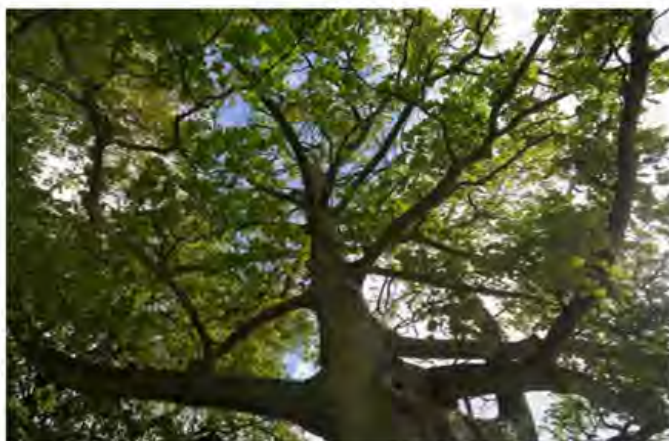
Social Sustainability

Trees and woodlands are used to provide a positive influence on public health and well-being

Inspection to ensure public safety.

Well planned tree planting.

Selection and retention of established trees.



The Council has an established Tree & Woodland Strategy, with the guidance of the Woodland Trust and other arboricultural professionals.

2.17

Biosecurity

The Council adheres to Government guidelines to control and prevent invasive pathogens.

2.18

Woodland Management

The Council has an established Tree & Woodland Strategy. This policy has been drawn up with the guidance of the Woodland Trust and other arboricultural professionals in the industry.

2.19

Perceptions of Woodland Management

Woodland management can be often seen to be very drastic and devastating, but this process is often necessary in order to achieve long term goals and benefits.

2.20

Response to Emergencies

LCCC has policies and protocols in place for dealing with emergency situations relating to its trees.

The Council Parks & Amenities Service Unit has a Storm Protocol in place to deal with tree related events during storms. This policy takes a realistic view of risk and gives priority to highly frequented areas.

2.21

Call Out Procedures

The Parks & Amenities Service Unit has a tree related emergency response team who can follow a set protocol and manage events as they occur. The protocol includes contact details of suitable arborist companies who are able to deal with these issues.

2.22

Review & Monitoring

The implementation of policies will be monitored to ensure that the aims and objectives of the strategy are achieved. The strategy itself should be monitored and reviewed.

Trees and woodlands are used to provide a positive influence on public health and well-being.



Tree Management Policy

231



Part 3

Tree Management Policy

3.1

Tree Inspection

All sites within the Council area containing trees are scheduled for regular inspection. These include:

Areas of high public use - for example Country Parks, car parks.

Areas of low public use - for example woodland areas away from frequented areas.

High risk trees - for example Ancient and veteran trees with health issues in public areas.



The Council will undertake all work which assists the establishment of young trees with significant life expectancy.

3.2

Management of Veteran Trees

The Council will, where public safety is not compromised, undertake all work which will:

Conserves trees with high ecological value.

Preserves trees with significant local historical and/or aesthetic value.

3.3

Young Tree Maintenance

The Council will undertake all work which assists the establishment of young trees with significant life expectancy. This enables new tree planting to reach its full potential.

3.4

Nuisance Management

The Council may undertake remedial work where it is considered that its trees are causing an actionable nuisance as assessed by the responsible council officer.

The Council will aim to undertake works expediently through its procurement arrangements.

3.5

Standards of Work

The Council has shaped its policy relating to standards of work to ensure that it achieves high standards of forestry and arboricultural maintenance. The standards of work on the relevant British Standards.

British standards provide professional guidance in tree management related matters. These standards include:

BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations.

BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations.

Part 3

Tree Management Policy

3.6 Sustainability

ANY TREE POPULATION, REGARDLESS OF SIZE AND CHARACTER, SHOULD BE MANAGED SUSTAINABLY TO CONSERVE OR ENHANCE ITS STATUS.

As a minimum standard, any losses should be replaced with new trees on a one for one basis.

Failure to achieve this will result in the decline and deterioration of the tree population.

The importance of this principle has been recognised on a global scale because of indiscriminate logging of primary forests in various parts of the world which do not include plans to conserve, protect or regenerate the forest environment.

The impact of non-sustainable forest management continues to be a major concern today and consequently, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has been set up as an international non-governmental organisation with the aim of developing an independent system for the certification of timber and timber products from sustainable sources.

This provides a market mechanism to reward sustainable forest management and allows consumers of wood products to make a choice and influence the management of forests. The UK Forestry Standard was published in 1998 and sets out the government’s approach to sustainable forestry.

This encourages woodland owners to achieve woodland certification in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) 2018. This is an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable forest and woodland management in the United Kingdom.

The UKWAS standard is currently the central component of the forest certification program operated in the UK by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Sustainable woodland management plans are now a pre-requisite to obtaining woodland management grants through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, administered by the Forestry Commission. Sustainable management is therefore essential both on a global and local scale and should be adopted by all local authorities responsible for managing both individual tree populations and woodlands.

Sustainable management is essential both on a global and local scale and should be adopted for managing both individual tree populations and woodlands.

Sustainable systems of management should:

Maintain or enhance the tree population.

Facilitate the removal of dangerous or potentially hazardous trees.

Promote bio-diversity and conserve the tree/forest eco-system.

Conserve veteran trees with significant ecological, historical and amenity value.

Establish a tree population with a balanced diversity of age-classes.

Optimise the use of timber and other products of tree management.





Part 3

Tree Management Policy

3.7

Woodland Management

TREES IN WOODLAND AREAS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN, AND CONTINUE TO BE, PLANTED AT RELATIVELY CLOSE SPACING, APPROXIMATELY TWO METRES APART. THIS ENABLES THE NEW WOODLAND TO DOMINATE SURROUNDING VEGETATION AND ESTABLISH MUCH QUICKER.

Initially, the young trees provide shelter for each other, but eventually start to compete for light, space, soil moisture and nutrients.

This triggers a natural selection process where the stronger trees start to dominate. At this point the forester will start thinning works to provide the space for the best trees to continue to develop. If management works are not implemented at this stage, competition between trees forces them to become tall and drawn.

This ultimately will cause the trees to become unstable and dangerous, particularly in windy conditions. There is a significant public safety implication if woodlands/plantations are not managed through their life, particular if public access is provided through the woodland or it adjoins an area of high public use for example a plantation on a highway verge.

The Council therefore adopts a policy of ongoing management in all its woodland areas. If these woodlands are to be retained in the county's landscape in the long term, such management should include periodic re-stocking in order to accord with the sustainability policy detailed in the sustainability section of this strategy.

This form of management will eventually provide a wide diversity of age-structure within the Council's woodlands. This will enable the Council's tree managers in the future to adopt management systems which provide a high proportion of mature tree cover at any one time.

All operations must meet the guidance issued by the responsible officer, the requirements of the law, current codes of practice and industry guides.

3.8

Response to Emergencies

THIS INCLUDES THE SAFE PREPARATION AND UNDERTAKING OF EMERGENCY/URGENT TREE WORKS TYPICALLY AS A RESULT OF TREE FAILURE, VEHICULAR ACCIDENT OR WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCY.

The use of equipment and all operations must meet the guidance issued by the responsible officer, the requirements of the law, current codes of practice and industry guides.

The complexity of the situation will have a significant impact on the work required.

Traffic management systems may be your responsibility or be implemented by the highways authority and/or police.

As a minimum an emergency tree work operations team must be appropriately equipped and have the appropriate qualifications and experience.

The Council adopts a policy of ongoing management in all its woodland areas.



ARBORISTS WORKING ON DISEASED ASH



FELLING OPERATIONS WILL BE MORE COMPLEX AND COSTLY THAN USUAL



TREES AFFECTED BY ASH DIEBACK QUICKLY BECOME BRITTLE AND MAY DROP BRANCHES OR FALL OVER



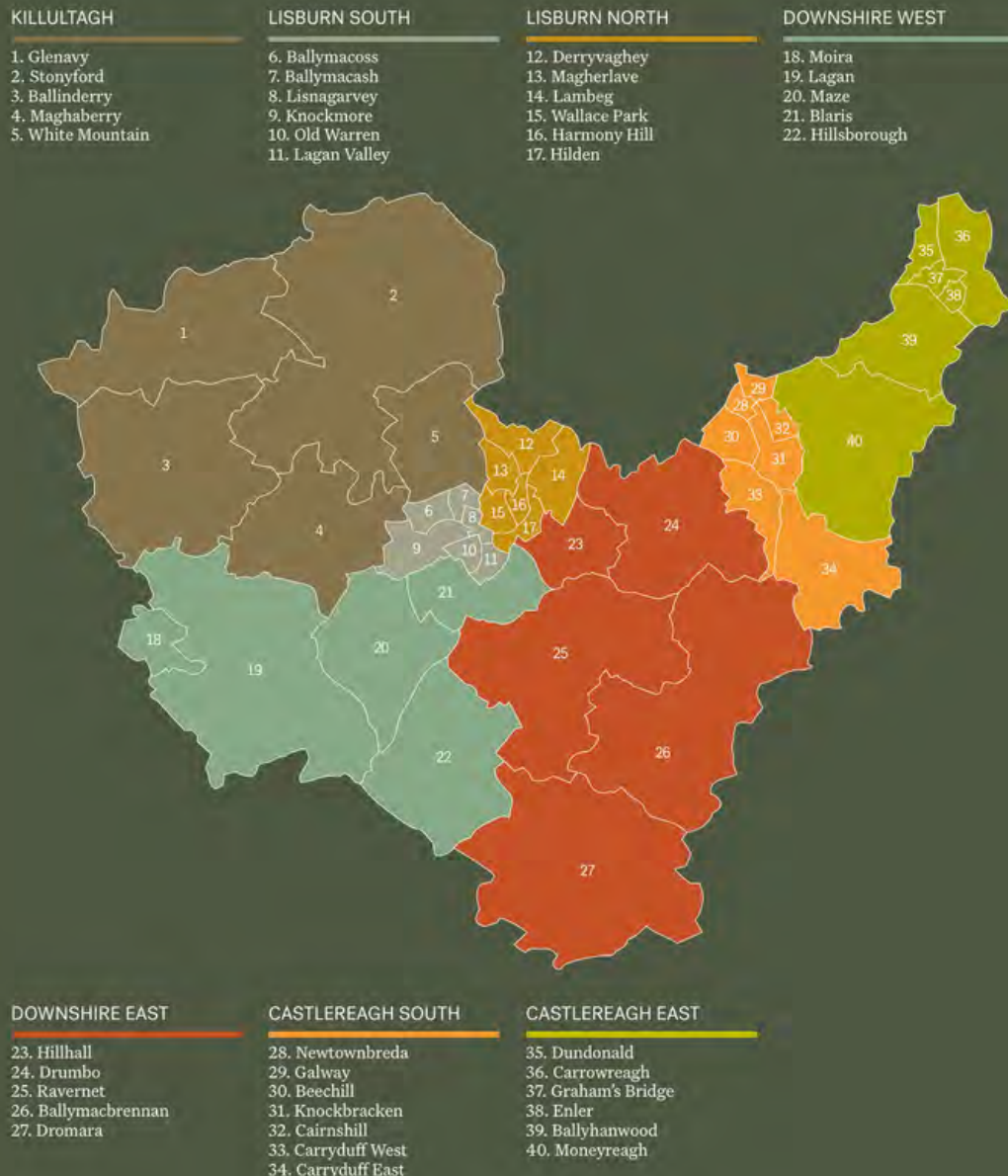
Appendices



Appendix 1 Tree Cover Percentage by Ward

WARD	% CANOPY COVER	WARD	% CANOPY COVER
Glenavy	5.33%	Dromara	6.33%
Stonyford	6.67%	Hilden	14.30%
White Mountain	4.67%	Harmony Hill	16.00%
Maghaberry	4.67%	Wallace Park	16.00%
Ballinderry	7.33%	Magheralave	14.30%
Moira	7.30%	Derriaghy	16.50%
Lagan	5.00%	Lambeg	15.70%
Maze	8.00%	Beechill	23.10%
Blaris	12.00%	Newtownbreda	13.30%
Hillsborough	11.33%	Galwally	8.60%
Knockmore	11.00%	Cairnshill	3.30%
Ballymacoss	12.90%	Knockbracken	5.00%
Ballymacash	7.90%	Carryduff West	9.70%
Lisnagarvey	7.00%	Carryduff East	3.67%
Old Warren	12%	Dundonald	10.33%
Lagan Valley	18.40%	Carroweagh	8.70%
Hillhall	4.30%	Graham's Bridge	16.30%
Drumbo	6.33%	Eler	14.00%
Ravernet	8.33%	Ballyhanwood	4.70%
Ballymacbrennan	7.00%	Moneyreagh	6.00%

Appendix 2 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Ward Map



Appendix 3 Ancient Woodland Sites

ANCIENT WOODLAND IN OUR LISBURN CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL AREA IS CLASSIFIED INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

PAWS

— Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites, sites with a long history of woodland cover where the original (natural) woodland was cleared and replaced by a plantation native or exotic.

ASNW

— Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland where native tree species have not obviously been planted and are still found.

L-EW

— Long Established Woodland not yet ancient.

The total ancient woodland within the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) area is 168.24 hectares of which 73% (122.06h) are classified as PAWS, 14% (24.28h) as L-EW and 13% (21.9h) as ASNW.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is made up of seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) and forty wards; below the amount of hectares of the fore mentioned three categories in each DEA are identified and split into which ward they are located in.

LISBURN NORTH 0.8%	LISBURN SOUTH 0.6%
LAMBEG (Glenmore plantation) 1.05h ASNW	LAGAN VALLEY (Hillsborough Rd) 0.69h ASNW
HARMONY HILL (Richmond Court) 0.29h ASNW	BALLYMACASH (Ballymacash) 0.32h L-EW
TOTAL: 1.34h all ASNW	TOTAL: 1.01h (0.69h ASNW/ 0.32h L-EW)
KILLULTAGH 3.8%	
STONEYFORD (Tullyrusk Rd) 0.74h PAWS	
GLENAVY (Ballyshannon/Lurgan Rd) 0.86h ASNW	
BALLINDERRY (Upper Ballinderry) 0.77h ASNW	
MAGHABERRY (Ballinderry Rd) 3.96h ASNW	
TOTAL: 6.33h (5.59h ASNW/ 0.74h PAWS)	
DOWNSHIRE WEST 74.5%	DOWNSHIRE EAST 13.5%
LAGAN (Broadwater) 1.72h ASNW, 2.9h L-EW & 0.16h PAWS	RAVERNET (Larchfield estate) 3.13h PAWS & 1.54h L-EW
MOIRA (Moirá Demesne) 9.49h L-EW	BALLYMACBRENNAN (Larchfield estate) 10.1h PAWS, 1.94h ASNW & 1.87h L-EW
HILLSBOROUGH (Hillsborough Castle/Forest) 95.59h PAWS, 7.92h L-EW & 7.6h ASNW	DRUMBO (Ballylessen Rd) 3.02h ASNW, 0.87h PAWS & 0.24h L-EW
TOTAL: 125.38h (95.75h PAWS, 20.31h L-EW & 9.32h ASNW)	TOTAL: 22.71h (14.1h PAWS/ 4.96h ASNW/ 3.65h L-EW)
CASTLEREAGH SOUTH 6.8%	CASTLEREAGH EAST 0%
BEECHILL (Purdysburn) 11.47h PAWS	No Ancient Woodland
TOTAL: 11.47h all PAWS	

For more information,

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Parks-Amenities-Distribution@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Parks and Amenities Service Unit
Civic Head Quarters
Lagan Valley Island
Lisburn BT27 4RL



Leisure & Community Development Committee

Item for Noting

Tuesday 7 February 2023

Confidential Report from:

Head of Sports Services

Item for Noting

TITLE: Vitality Household Membership – Independent Evaluation

Background and Key Issues:

1. Council commissioned an independent evaluation of the Vitality Household membership in 2019 with the results being received in January 2020.
2. The initial results depicted a very positive picture of the impact of the Vitality Scheme both in terms of quality and quantity. However given Vitality was relatively new a positive response was expected given its initial popularity.
3. A commitment was given to continuously review the programme, to include seeking feedback from both members and non-members. Therefore further independent research was carried out over the autumn period to include a survey open to all members and non-members. In tandem with direct contact to our members, social media channels advertised the opportunity to non-members.
4. In addition to the direct survey two focus groups were held (one virtually) with places open to all and allocated on a first come first served basis. The focus groups attracted a total of 42 participants.
5. A total of 1510 responses to the survey were received including 579 non-members making this research one of the largest of its kind in N.I therefore providing robust, detailed and current information on the impact of the Vitality scheme. This was an increase of 1080 from the 2019 survey.
6. The detailed report is attached at appendix **xx** for Members consideration.

7. Whilst the report is attached Members should note some of the headline comparative figures for information as noted below:

QUESTION	% IN 2023	% IN 2019
Respondents were attracted to join Vitality as they felt it was good value for money.	81%	80%
Respondents are female.	75%	60%
Felt Vitality has the potential to encourage people to be more active.	86%	89%
Felt better overall.	67%	70%
Respondents are more active now than before joining Vitality	65%	77%
Feel due to Vitality they/their family will be able to be continually physically active in the long term.	73%	78%
Respondents say it has improved their mental health	57%	59%
Enjoy the social interaction and have made new friends.	39%	30%
Of non-members say Vitality is too expensive.	43%	No data
Of non-members feel Vitality has the potential to encourage people to be more action.	93%	No data
Of respondents were attracted to join due to the range of activities on offer.	76%	56%
A number of the personal comments highlight the positive impact on residents personal mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A	N/A

8. The decline in a number of areas is not unexpected for a number of reasons

- I. The initial survey took place not long after the launch and implementation of what was a new and unique membership package. Council would have expected an initial spike in positivity.
- II. At the time the latest survey and focus groups took place, some of the Vitality programme including leisure pool sessions and popular classes, were compromised due to a number of operational and resourcing issues.
- III. Managers continue to interrogate the data to inform future programmes, set objectives with SMART targets. These are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

How will the research information be used moving forward?

9. Further Council led focus groups will be convened alongside "Mystery visits" to ascertain the views of members as the programme returns to a degree of stability.
10. A service improvement plan will be developed to focus on the areas of improvement plus build on the positive overall outcome

- 11. Feedback to members will be illustrated through "You said we did" via social media, in centre feedback and the focus groups.
- 12. The results will help shape the future direction of the Vitality membership to include facilities, programmes and classes plus influence approach to potential increases in membership costs for 2024/2025.
- 13. The research will be used to help highlight the impact of the councils programmes in promoting health related physical activity and its contribution to the corporate plan. It will also underpin any future funding applications or award submissions including the service K.P.I's.

Recommendation:

It is recommended Members note the results of the 2022 Vitality Membership research

Finance and Resource Implications:

None

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy?

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

N/A

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	<input type="text" value="Yes/No"/>
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?

Yes/No

Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?

Yes/No

If no, please give explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

Council wide

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

Yes/No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

As attached

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

Yes/No

If Yes, please insert date:

Vitality Membership Scheme

A Review

January 2022



Broughshane House, 70 Main Street, Broughshane BT42 4JW
Mob: 07962 300361
Email: info@otiumleisureconsultancy.co.uk

Introduction

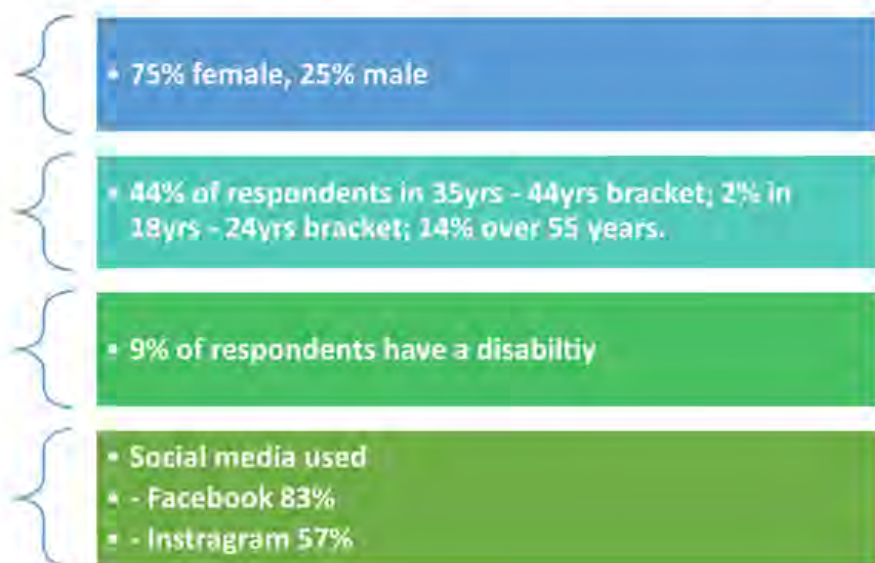
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council commissioned a second review of Vitality, the Council’s leisure facilities membership scheme, in late 2022. The scheme was introduced in March 2019 and the first review was undertaken in late 2019, attracting 430 responses to an online survey. This second review of Vitality’s 13,422 individual members attracted 1,510 responses to the review’s online survey. Vitality membership gives access to a wide range of physical activities across nine of the Council’s sports and leisure estate; Lagan Valley LeisurePlex, Dundonald International Ice Bowl, Lough Moss Leisure Centre, Glenmore Activity Centre, Kilmakee Activity Centre, Grove Activity Centre, Billy Neill MBE Country Park, Castlereagh Hills Golf Course, Aberdelghy Golf Course.

The purpose of the review was to find out how Vitality is changing peoples’ lifestyles and benefiting physical and mental health and wellbeing. The approach to this second review was in two parts:-

1. **An online survey.** The survey questionnaires, widely circulated on the Council’s social media platforms, was directed at residents who are Vitality members *and* at residents who are not Vitality members.
2. **Focus groups.** Two focus groups were held, one in-person, one online. Vitality and non-members were invited.

Online Survey

An infographic presentation of the survey results has been developed as an integral part of this report. The survey questionnaire presented a series of questions, a mix of ‘tick box’ and ‘open comment’. With 1,510 responses this was a good deal higher than might have been expected given that the first review conducted at the end of 2019, attracted 430 responses. In itself this points to a high level of interest in Vitality. It should be noted that the responses for this second review were split 62% members, 38% non-members. Here’s a rapid summary of the headline results from the 2022 survey.



Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Vitality Membership Scheme – A Review

Type of Membership	%
Household	50
Household – Concession	21
Individual	16
Individual – Concession	10
Vitality Plus – Individual	1
Vitality Plus – Household	2
Total	100%

How long have you been a member?	%
Under 1 year	44
1-2 years	17
2-3 years	14
Over 3 years	25
Total	100%

How often do you use Vitality membership?

64% of respondents use it a few times each week.

What facilities do you most use?	%
LeisurePlex	65
Ice Bowl	14
Lough Moss	14
Glenmore	1
Kilmakee	1
Grove	1
Billy Neill	2
Castlereagh Hills	Nil
Aberdelghy	Nil
Total	100%

What attracted you to join Vitality?

Cost - good value for money - 81%
Range of activities on offer - 76%
Able to use any Council Centre - 38%

Level of satisfaction?

76% of respondents are Very Satisfied/Satisfied overall
80% of respondents are Very Satisfied/Satisfied with staff
78% of respondents are Very Satisfied/Satisfied with ease of joining
62% of respondents are Very Satisfied/Satisfied with the Vitality App



**Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Vitality Membership Scheme – A Review**

Do you feel Vitality has the potential to encourage more people to be active?

Yes - 86%
No
Not Sure

Do you think Vitality is accessible to those on low incomes?

Yes - 47%
No
Not Sure

What difference is Vitality making to your life?

- 73% feel they/their family will be able to continue to be active in the long term due to Vitality.
- 65% are more active now than before joining.
- 68% are more confident they can find physical activities to suit their/their family's needs.
- 68% are more confident they can be healthier through activities available in Vitality.
- 68% feel it is much easier to be physically active across the Council area.
- 68% feel it is much easier to be physically active across the Council area.
- 59% have tried new activities or ones they have not done for a long time.
- 66% are more confident they can fit physical activity into their daily/weekly routine.
- 67% feel better overall.
- 60% are more aware of the benefits of physical activity.
- 61% feel it is easier for their family to do physical activities together.
- 53% say it has given them a more positive outlook on life.
- 57% say it has improved their mental health.
- 39% enjoy the social aspect, have made new friends and met other people with similar interests.
- 41% feel more connected to family and friends.
- 38% have started to use other Council facilities as a result of their Vitality membership.

Non-Members

- 43% say it's too expensive to join.
- 41% say they just hadn't got round to joining.
- 93% feel Vitality has the potential to encourage more people to be active.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Vitality Membership Scheme – A Review



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- 47% are either 'Inactive or Mildly Active'.
- 46% are not sure if Vitality is accessible to those on low incomes.
- 10% are members of a private gym.
- 77% have visited LVLP within the last 6 months.

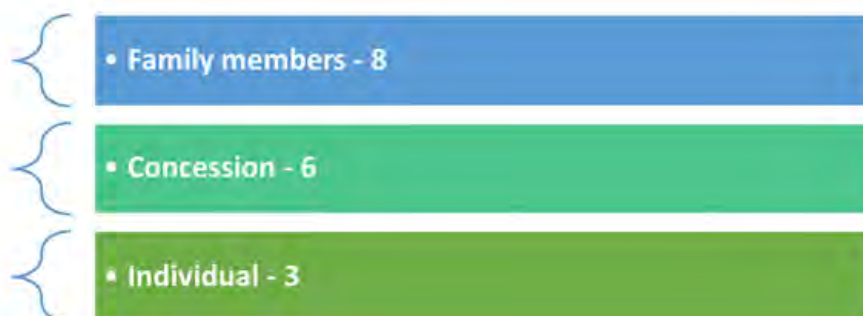
Personal Comments from Survey

- Example 1** 'I am recovering from ACL surgery so access to the gym and health suite over the last year has helped my recovery. When the kids were younger we were able to bring them to the Slide pool and mission inflatable without worrying about the cost. It was much more affordable and better VFM. Now the kids are a bit older they have much more independence so they have been able to use the gym and pools and courts as and when they want. We have also been able to try lots of new things like ice skating, squash and pickle ball. On the whole it has offered us the opportunity to do more things together as a family and also give us all lots of variety in terms of keeping fit. The health suite is a great way for me to meet up with my friends, catch up and relax.'
- Example 2** 'Having reached 67, I had 2 years of being diagnosed with clots in my lungs and felt old really quickly. I was overweight and when I had finished my medical treatment for the clots promised myself to get more active. I had only talked about it but never took any action. Then my son said he had booked himself and me into a swimming session and I nearly died, too old, too fat not the right costume etc etc etc all the excuses I could think of as to why I shouldn't go. My son was very good and didn't take no for an answer. He helped me in and out of the pool that day and never said anything negative as to how I looked or my old fashioned dress like costume. He kept saying this will start you and it was then I looked up the aqua fit classes and later joined Vitality for easy booking online. I have now lost 2 stone and try to go every week and am looking at other classes I might try.'
- Example 3** 'After retiring the thing I missed most was the social aspect of being in work i.e conversing/socialising with different people! Soon after taking out Vitality membership and doing the different classes on offer it wasn't long until I met new friends which filled in the void left after retiring. This is something I value very much for mental wellbeing.'
- Example 4** 'We initially took out the Vitality Membership as my wife was exploring becoming more active. She was keen to go to a gym where she wouldn't know other people due to a lack of confidence after having our first baby. When we explored the membership we realised how as a family we would have access to so many activities that we would be so much more engaged with each other. Over the past 2 years our family has grown and we now have 3 children. The membership continues to be a vital part of our monthly outgoings and with such a variety of activities we can keep the kids active both physically and socially for a reasonable cost. It has been harder for myself and wife to use the facilities for the gym and classes owing to family life but we definitely see a return to both in time. Other than that we have been absolutely delighted with our membership.'

Focus Groups

Monday 24 October 2022

This in-person focus group, held in Lagan Valley LeisurePlex, was attended by 17 people, all Vitality members.



A complete record of all written comments is provided as an appendix. Noteworthy comments in response to the three questions posed to attendees are as follows:-

Tell us what led to your decision to become a Vitality member.

'I joined in Nov 21, so it was to find something to do during dark, cold winter nights. I had trained with a PT for 6 months but the cost was too high and needed to find an affordable gym. My partner also joined plus I can take my daughter along. I can connect to my Finnish routes by going to the sauna and ice skating on a regular basis. This has improved my life massively. I do regular cold dips and can withstand the cold much better plus I can now do cold water swimming. I have a new hobby: pickleball and have told everyone about it. I can practice swimming with my kid in a relaxed pool (not so much in Olympia) where lifeguards are on top of their duties but where I can teach her in the deep end too.'

'I was already a gymtech member when the change to Vitality happened. I originally choose it as it was familiar and friendly and geographically convenient. It is becoming increasingly less value for money as classes cancelled and the centre closed 5 evenings Halloween week. Class availability is getting poorer and poorer. Inconsistency of class delivery from different instructors (a class might be strength based one week and cardio the next).'

'Several reasons for becoming a member. I have 3 children who are active and the classes have been a great way to keep them interested in sports and are enjoying new activities. Also the access to the leisure pool and mission inflatable as part of the membership have been good. With all the activities they are undertaking the Vitality membership suits us money on a monthly basis. The ease of booking the activities also helps but could be improvements made to the app.'

Tell us about the positive difference Vitality has made to you.

'Feel better. More motivated. Meet friends at classes, make new friends. Tried new activities. Able to fit activities around my lifestyle. Got rid of my sciatica after suffering for 3 years. Always made welcome at classes. All abilities catered for. Made me more outgoing.'

'I have hobbies now (previously had none), better mental health by being active, I can do things together with my partner (gym, sauna, racquet sports), with my kid (ice skating, swimming), I can go to a quiet gym and train in peace (Glenmore). I love going to the sauna, although it gets too crowded at times. It's good to have a routine in life.'

'Learning new skills, physical wellbeing. Discipline – feeling so good, don't want to waste the effect. Routine of exercise. Confidence. Influenced what I do outside of the facilities – more welly. Awareness of my body and what its telling me. It's proved that getting fit can be fun. It's underlined the importance of physical wellbeing.'

How can Vitality be improved?

'A pricing review. The cost for individuals or single parents is not a terrible price but value wise nowhere near comparable to the family membership. It might also be an idea for a discount for residents. More info about classes/instructors on the app would be beneficial. Recent issues have been around class cancellations and the closure of the centre for 5 nights for Halloween week – it's hard to recommend a membership to family and friends if it lacks consistency of offerings/value.'

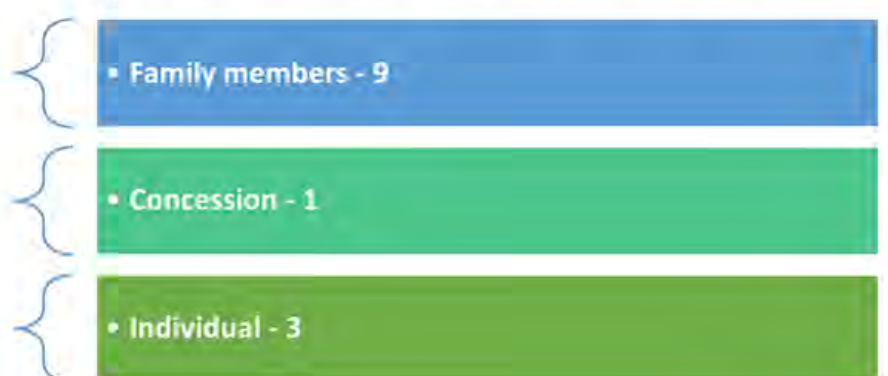
'Adult swimming lessons. Swimming booking is a palaver. More instruction in the gym. Name the people taking the classes, particularly the non-Council employees. Take a 7 day approach to classes. More consistency between the Council employees taking the sessions – some much better than others. When classes continually booking out quickly, try to run more – so frustrating.'

'Service gym equipment. Service spin bikes. Gym staff to go on a customer service course. Deep clean of health suite. Deep clean of changing rooms. Update app to incorporate squash courts and other activities. Add more classes to activities that are constantly oversubscribed. Front of house staff are excellent. Focus groups needed for specific areas, eg, gym.'

'I fully appreciate the benefit of the family membership to families and the Council, however, there is one *major* drawback for individual members. Each weekday Monday to Friday from 3.30pm – 5.00pm the gym is overrun by unsupervised 13/14 year olds who monopolise equipment while they operate their mobile phones and mess up the changing rooms with sweet wrappers, crisp bags and bottles. Staff do a superb job but theirs is an impossible role during that time.'

Tuesday 25 October 2022

This online focus group was attended by 13 people, all Vitality members.



A complete record of comments is provided as an appendix. Noteworthy comments are as follows:-

Tell us what led to your decision to become a Vitality member.

'Stepson got into ice hockey - £240 a month but only £38 with Vitality membership. No brainer.'

'Range of activities for whole family.'

Tell us about the positive difference Vitality has made to you.

'8 and 10 year old can experience activities together – bonding between children.'

'Feeling much better physically and mentally. Building a routine of exercise leading to being more focused.'

'Healthier habits, healthier routine. App really helps develop habits – do classes with husband.'

How can Vitality be improved?

'Needs to be consistency of lanes – don't cancel slow lanes.'

'How does the report influence – You Said → We Did. Must report back to members.'

'Really difficult to join the membership as a divorced father with 2 kids.'

Comment

This second review of the Vitality membership scheme confirms that it is *'changing people's lifestyles and benefiting physical and mental health and wellbeing'* in many ways.

Why?

- ❖ Vitality is highly accessible in terms of affordability. There are many competitors in the market and people will shop around, looking at price and what's on offer. The cost of Vitality membership clearly is viewed by members as very competitive.
- ❖ Value for money is also a consideration and the inclusion of a wide range of facilities, venues and activities is a significant draw to prospective members and is important in holding onto them. Whilst the majority of respondents use Lagan Valley LeisurePlex, some commented that they also use other venues.
- ❖ The Council's leisure centres are of a quality that enables them to compete with the private sector.
- ❖ Lagan Valley LeisurePlex is regarded as one of the leading leisure and sport complexes in Northern Ireland. As the Council's flagship leisure complex it is especially attractive to family groups in Vitality, offering something for all ages and abilities.

How?

- ❖ Vitality members now account for 9% of the district's population. Clearly, the more members there are, the bigger the impact on peoples' lifestyles and general wellbeing.
- ❖ Whilst some people will use their membership as individuals, nearly three quarters of respondents are household (family) members. The stories of how people are impacted by Vitality membership include many that refer to the opportunities for family bonding, whilst many individual members report significant improvements to physical and mental health. It is these outcomes that support the view that peoples' wellbeing is improved through Vitality membership, in some cases quite considerably.

What about people who aren't members?

This second review quizzed people who are not Vitality members. Around three quarters of the non-member respondents have used Lagan Valley LeisurePlex at least once within the preceding six month period so it's not necessarily the case that people who are not Vitality members don't use the Council's facilities. As to why they aren't members, 41% said they *'just haven't got round to joining'* which indicates that Vitality has yet to reach a peak in terms of the number of members.

Improvement?

The survey comments and focus groups highlighted a number of operational elements that cause some of the members concern. With over 13,000 members it may be the case that Vitality is a victim of its own success and care is needed to ensure service quality is maintained throughout Vitality.

The second review evidences that the Vitality membership scheme is a continuing success story. It would appear to be a model approach for how people can access and derive benefit from their local authority leisure facilities. Looking at the respondents' stories of how Vitality membership has impacted on their lives, it's clear that the benefit is considerable, including physical benefit, mental benefit and social benefit. The collective outcome is enhanced wellbeing through improved lived experiences made possible by Vitality.

Vitality Membership Scheme Feedback Survey 2022



In March 2019 Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council launched the Vitality Membership Scheme. Now, in 2022, 13,422 individual members participate in a wide range of physical activities across 9 venues: Lagan Valley LeisurePlex, Dundonald International Ice Bowl, Lough Moss Leisure Centre, Glenmore Activity Centre, Kilmakee Activity Centre, Grove Activity Centre, Billy Neill MBE Country Park, Castlereagh Hills Golf Course and Aberdelghy Golf Course.

Headline figures from the September 2022 online survey

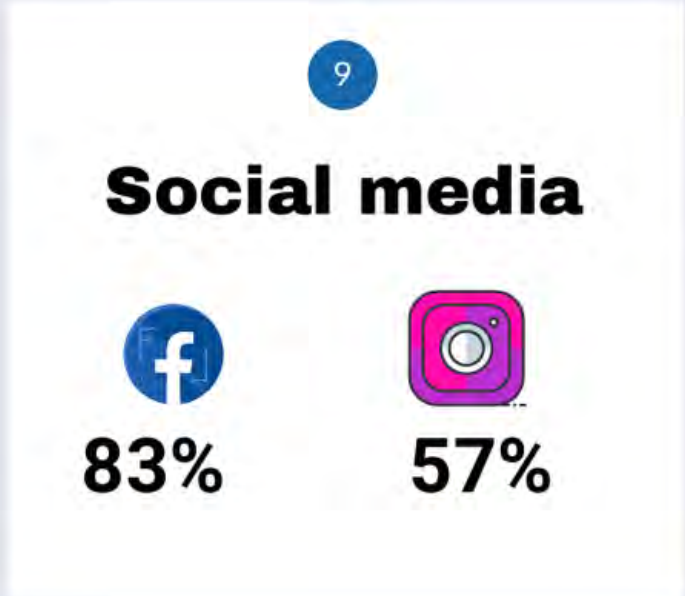
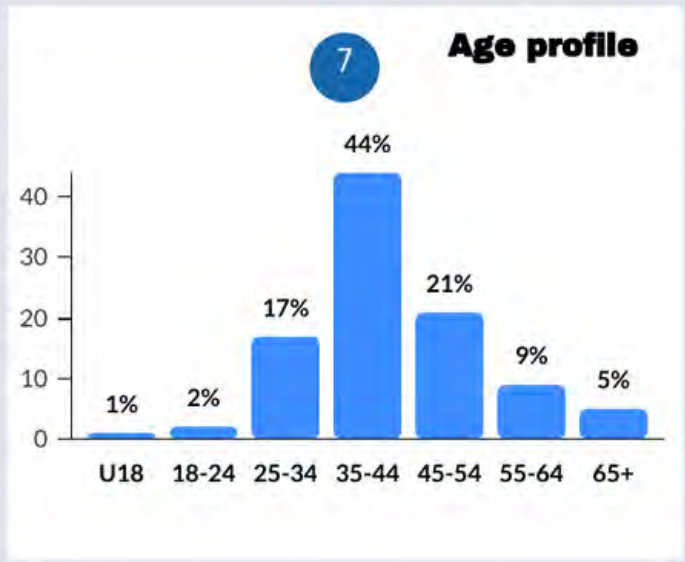
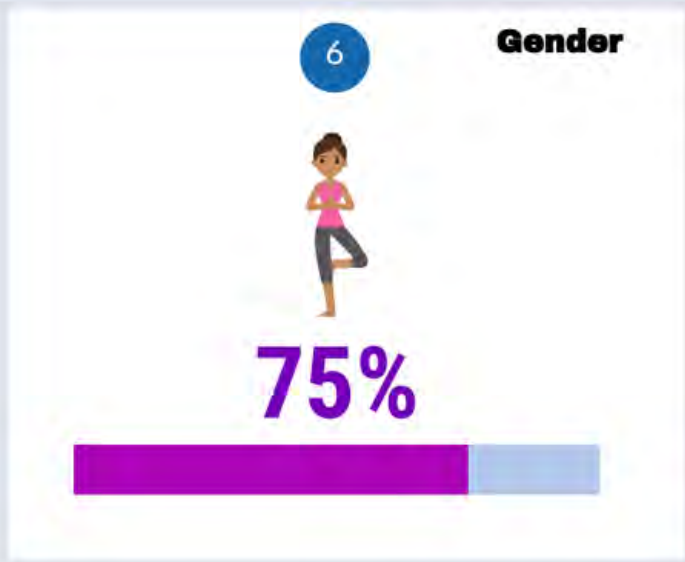


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Respondents - Breakdown

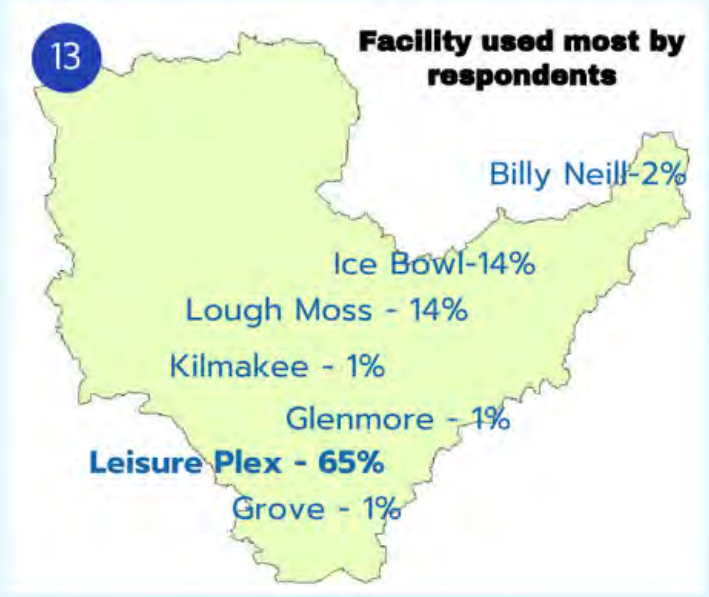
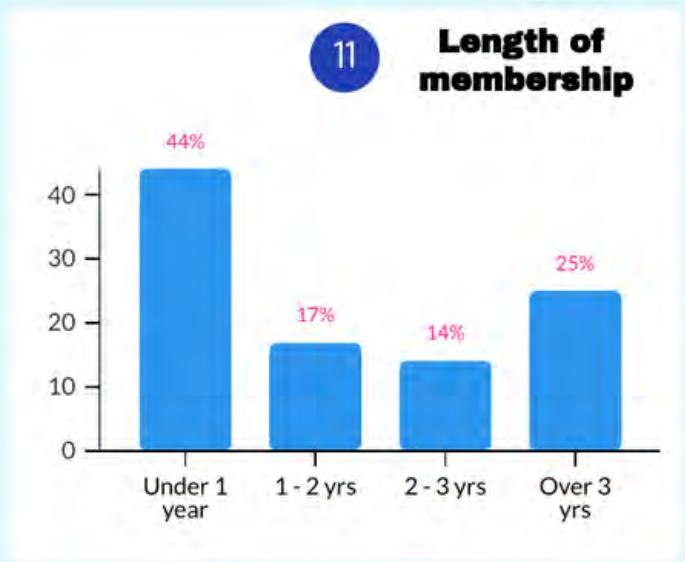
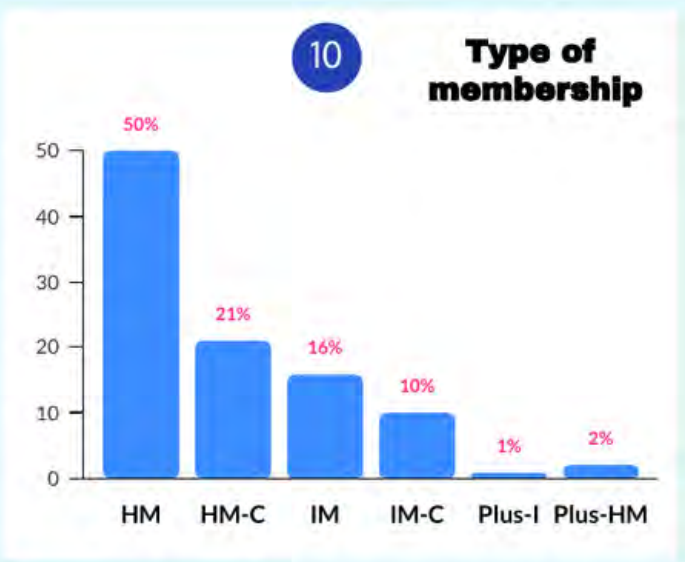


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Membership - Overview



Vitality Membership Scheme Feedback Survey 2022



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Headline figures from the September 2022 online survey



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Impact of the Vitality Membership Scheme

19

73%

of respondents feel due to Vitality they/their family will be able to continue to be physically active in the **long term**.

20

65%

of respondents are more active **now** than before joining Vitality.

21

68%

are more confident they can find physical activity to suit their own/their families needs.

confident ↑

22

68%

are more confident they can be healthier through activities available in the Vitality membership scheme.

23

68%

feel it is much easier to be physical active across the Council area.

Vitality Membership Scheme Feedback Survey 2022



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Impact of the Vitality Membership Scheme

24

59%

of respondents have tried new activities or ones they have not done for a long time.

TRY SOMETHING NEW

25

66%


of respondents are more confident they can fit physical activity into their daily/weekly routine.



27

67%

of respondents overall feel better.



28

60%

are more aware of the benefits of physical activity.



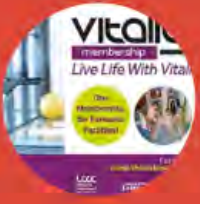
29

61%

feel it is easier for their family to do physical activities together.

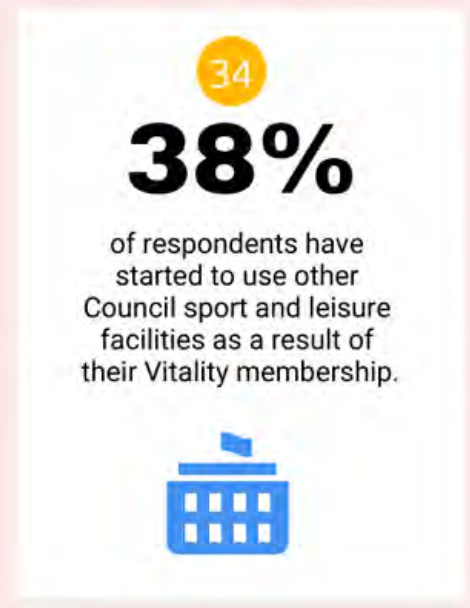
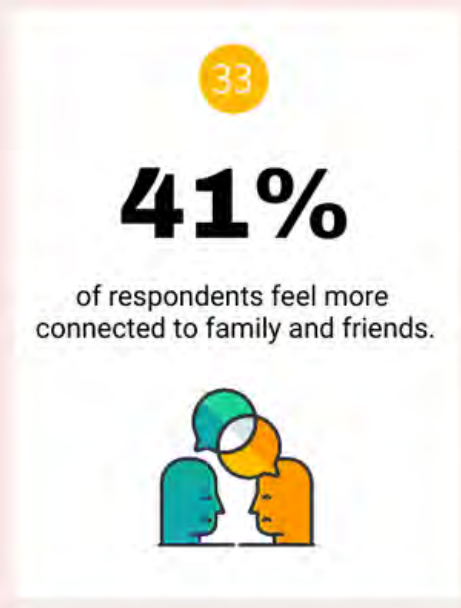
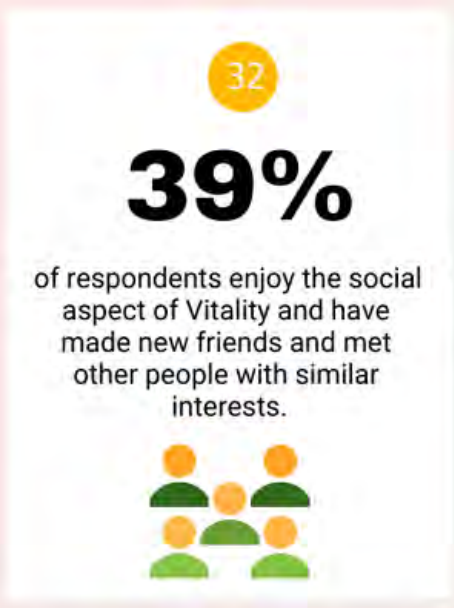


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In addition, a number of questions were asked to find out more about why some people have not joined the Vitality Membership Scheme.

Non-Members (n=579)

35

43%

of non-member respondents say the Vitality Membership is too expensive

££££

36

41%

of non-member respondents said they just hadn't got round to joining.

37

93%

of non-member respondents feel the Vitality Membership scheme has the potential to encourage people to be more active.

38

47%

of non-member respondents are either 'Inactive or Mildly active'

39

46%

of non-member respondents are **NOT SURE** if the Vitality Membership package is accessible to those with low-incomes

Vitality Membership Scheme Feedback Survey



Online Survey
September 2022

Online Survey



Online survey from 15th August to 15th September 2022

Questionnaire length **27 questions for members**
9 questions for non-members

Responses 1510



**76% of respondents are either
Very Satisfied/Satisfied with the
Vitality Membership Scheme**

Profile of respondents

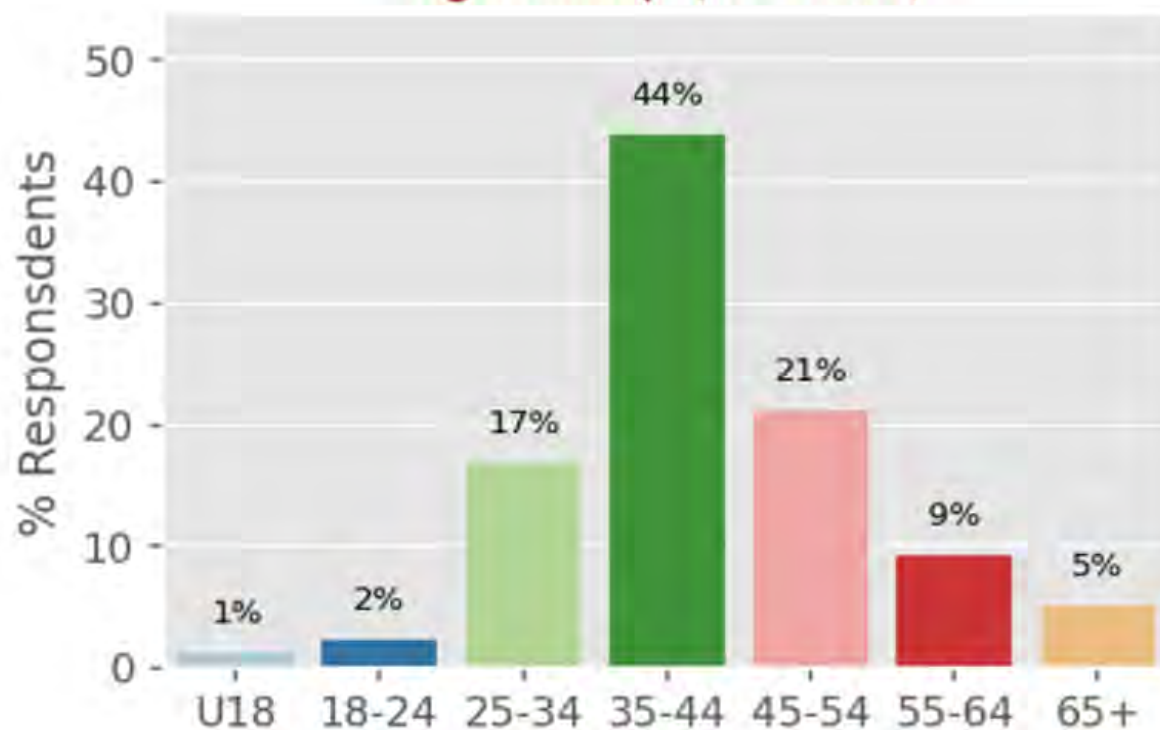


Online – 75% female, 25% male



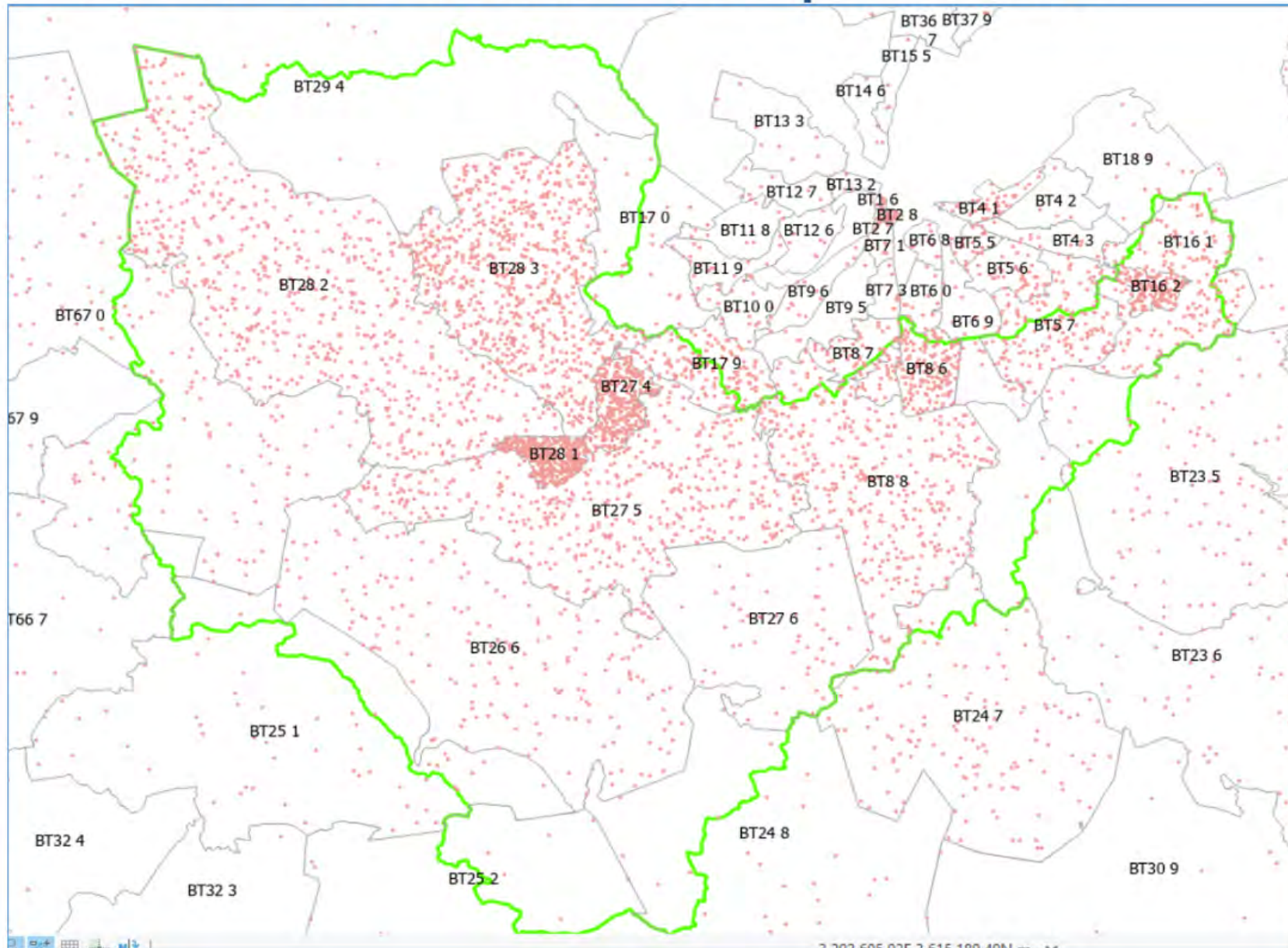
9% have a health problem/disability

Age Group (n=1502)




65% of respondents are between 35 to 54 years old

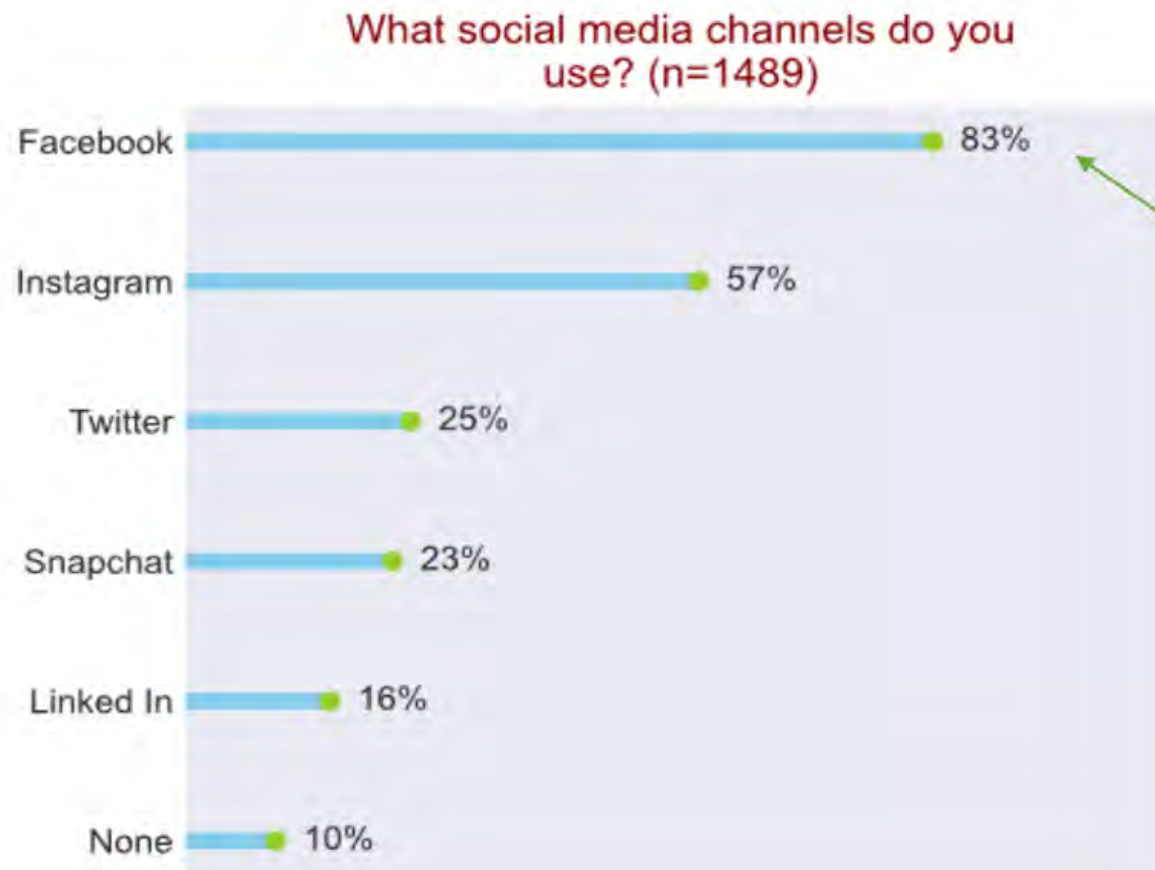
Postcode Sectors - Respondents



 Council Boundary

 Respondent's postcode sector

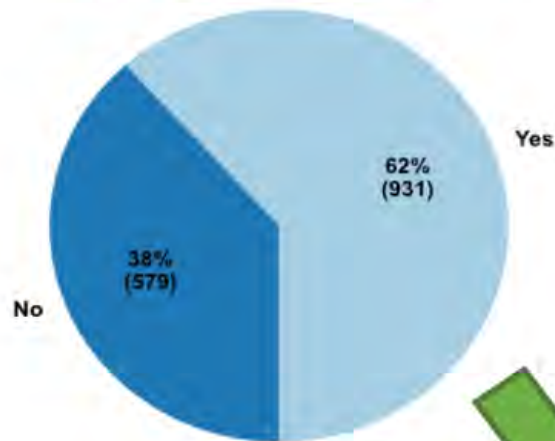
Social media channels respondents use



Members - results

Member of Vitality?/Type of Membership?

Vitality Member (n=1510)



Membership Type (n=726)



Members

Overall how satisfied respondents are with the Vitality membership package?

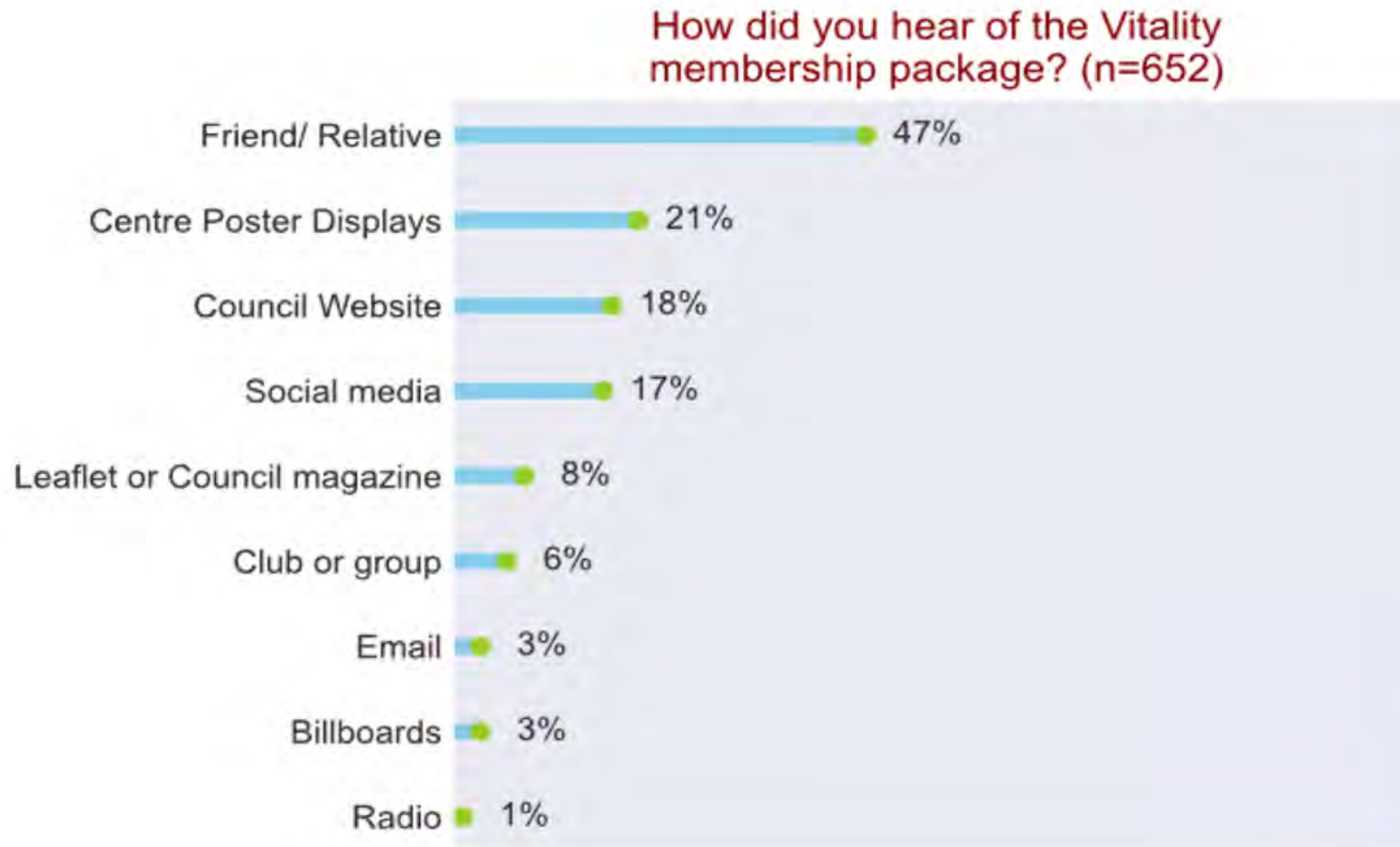
76% of respondents are Very Satisfied/Satisfied with the scheme.



What attracted respondents to join the Vitality Membership scheme?



How did you hear of the Vitality Membership Scheme?



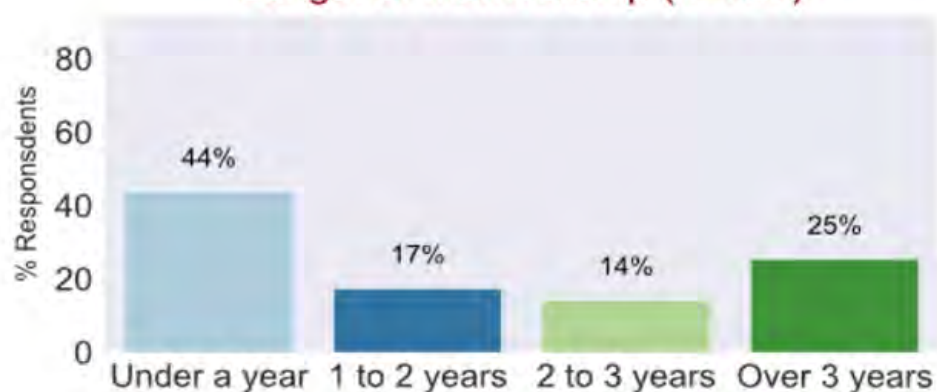
How often respondents participate in Vitality activities?

How often normally use Vitality Membership (n=726)

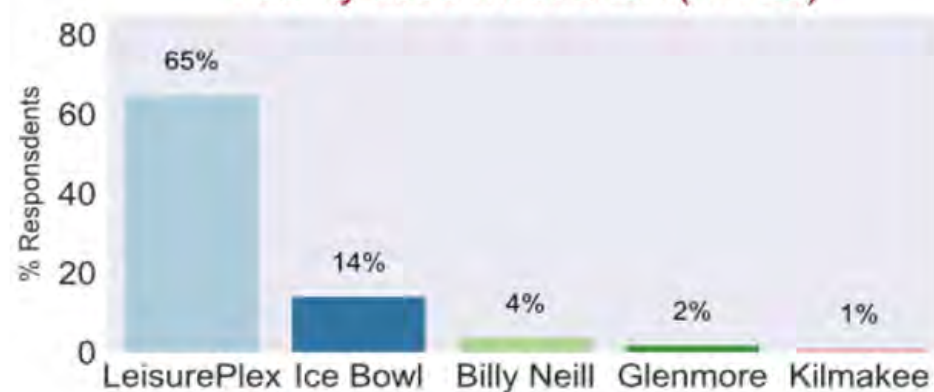


Length of membership and facility most used?

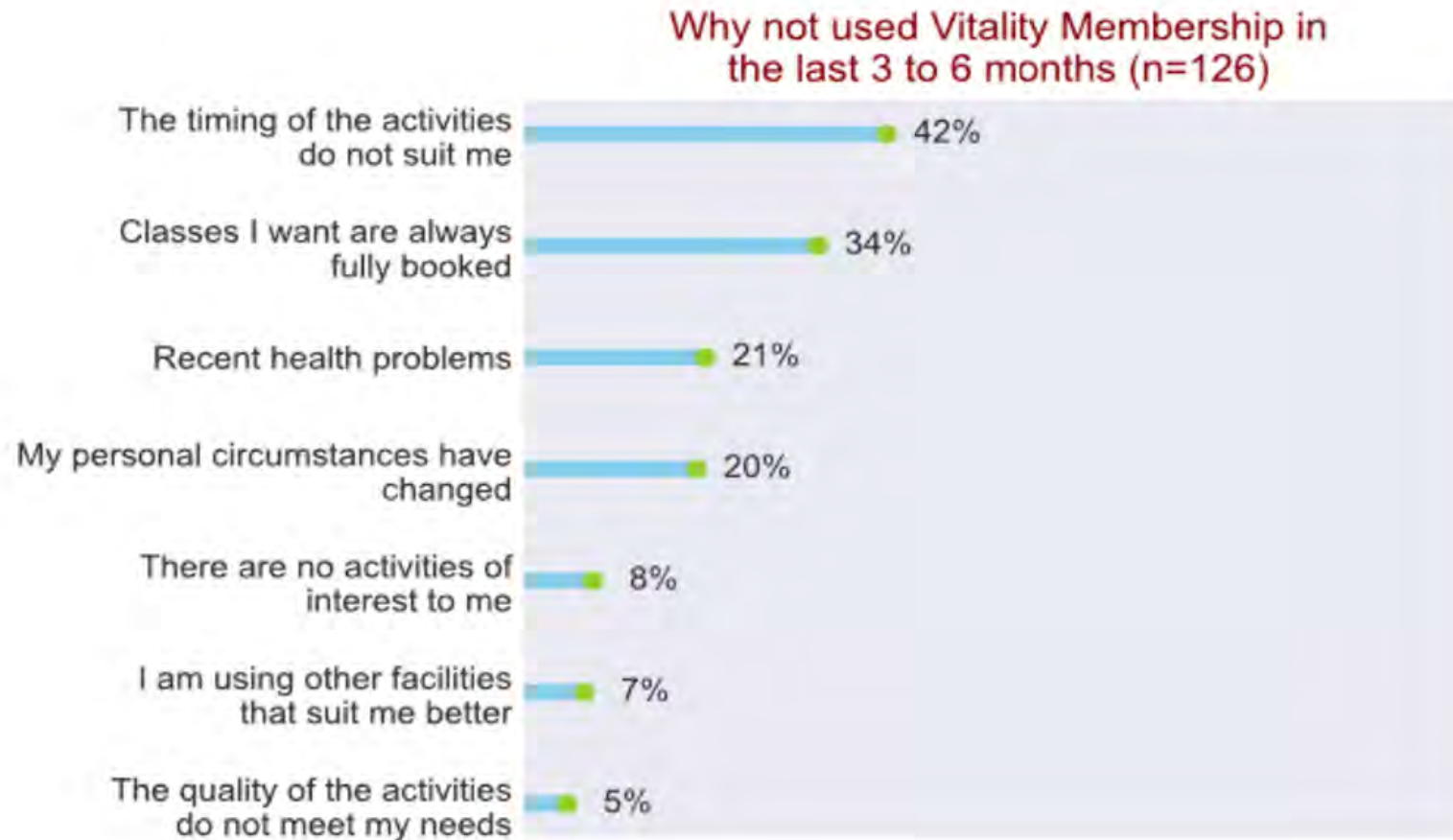
Length of membership (n=727)



Facility used most often (n=725)

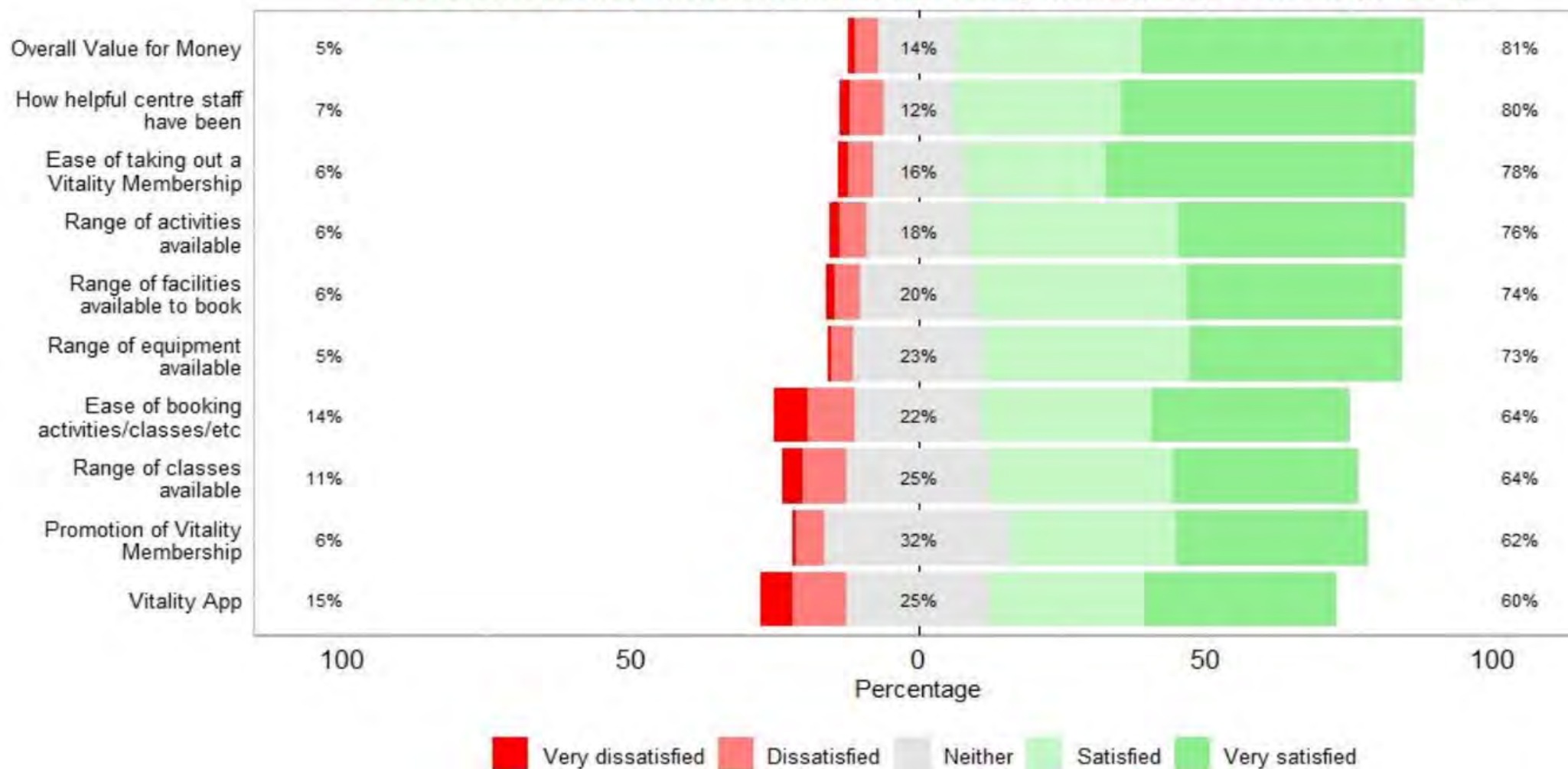


Reasons why respondents have not used their Vitality membership in the last 3 to 6 months



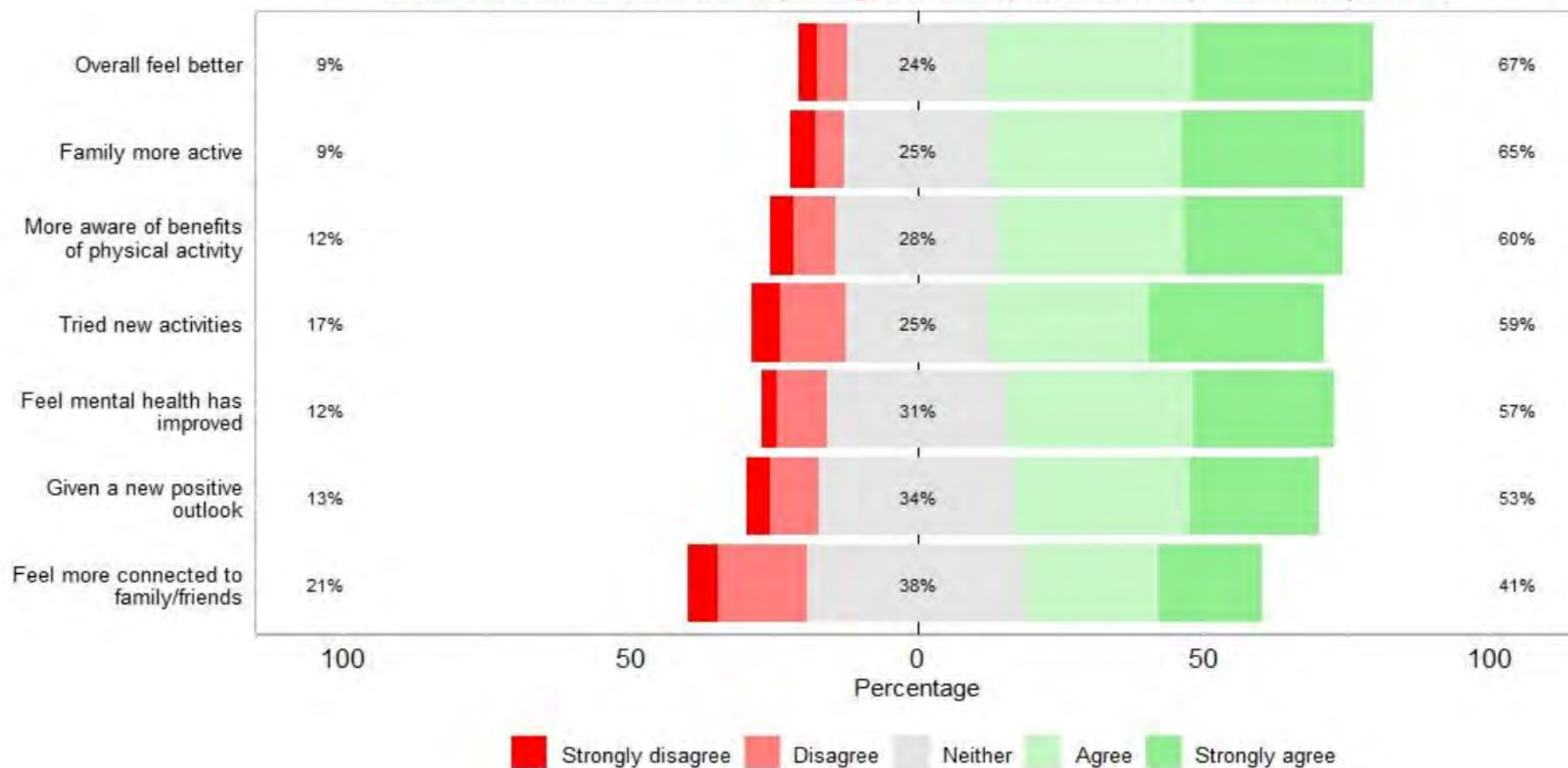
How satisfied

Q15. How Satisfied with elements of the Vitality Membership Scheme (n=684)



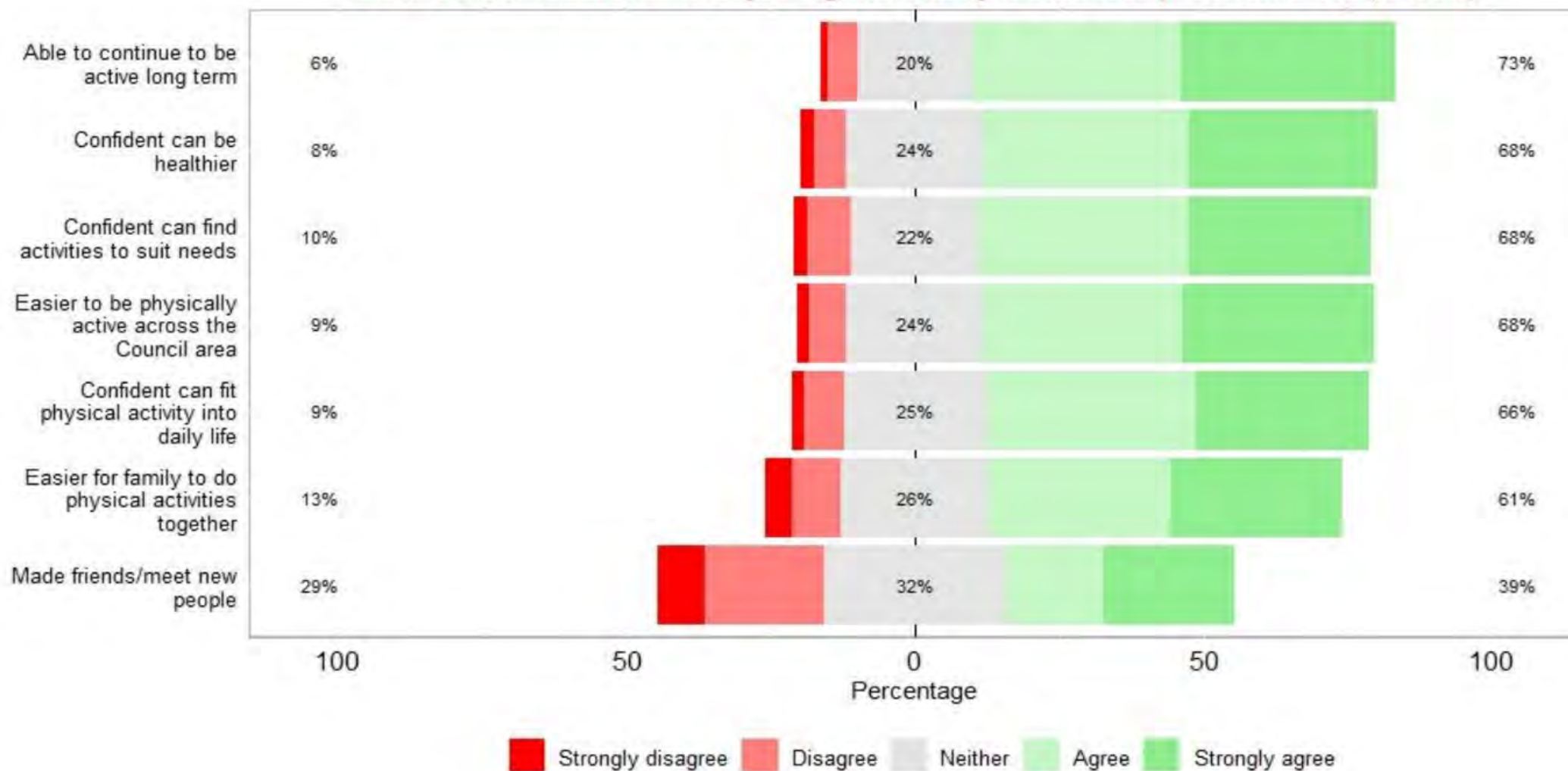
Outcomes/Benefits (1)

Q20. Outcomes/Benefits of joining the Vitality Membership Scheme (n=704)



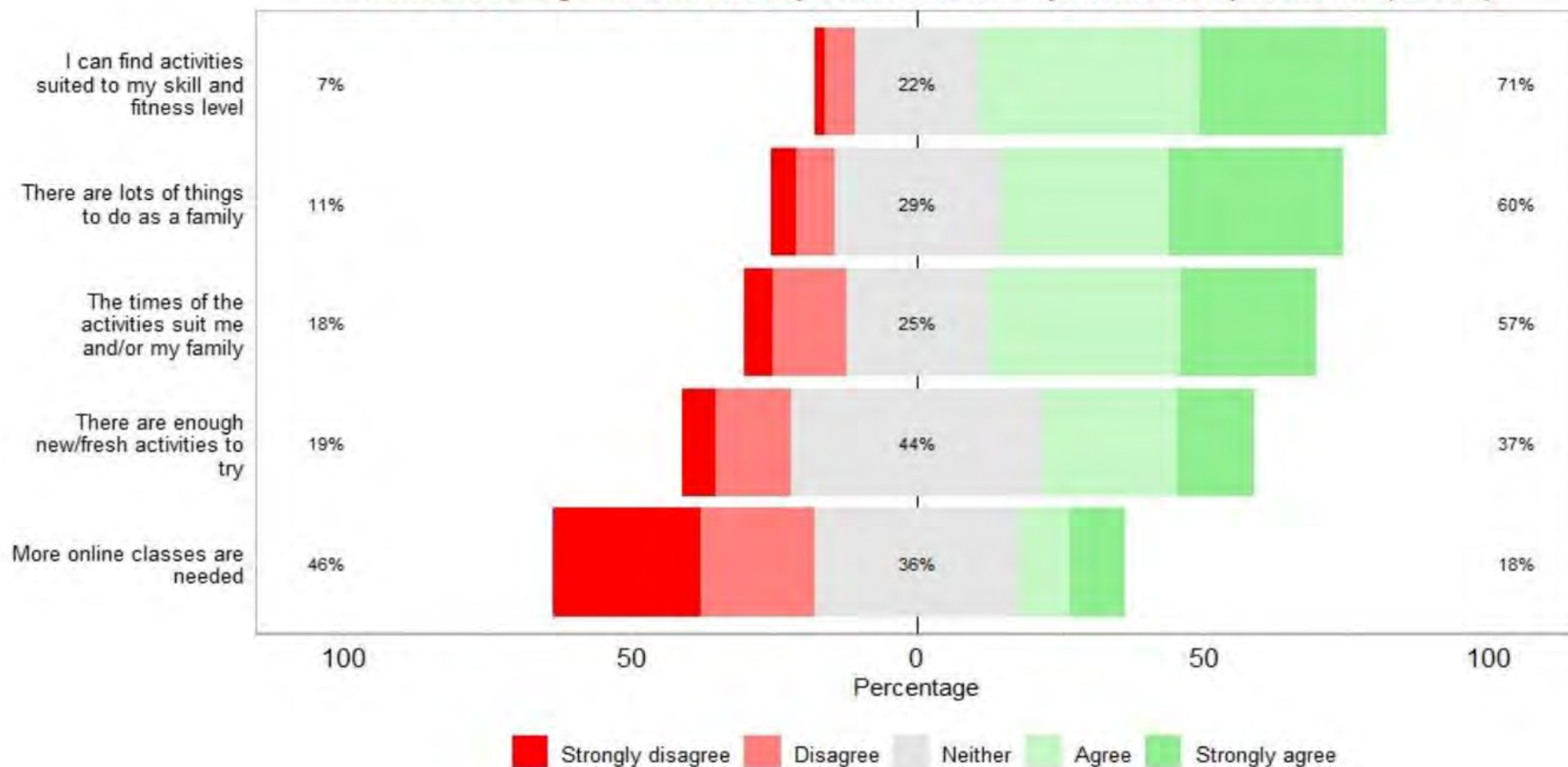
Outcomes/Benefits (2)

Q21. Outcomes/Benefits of joining the Vitality Membership Scheme ctd (n=694)

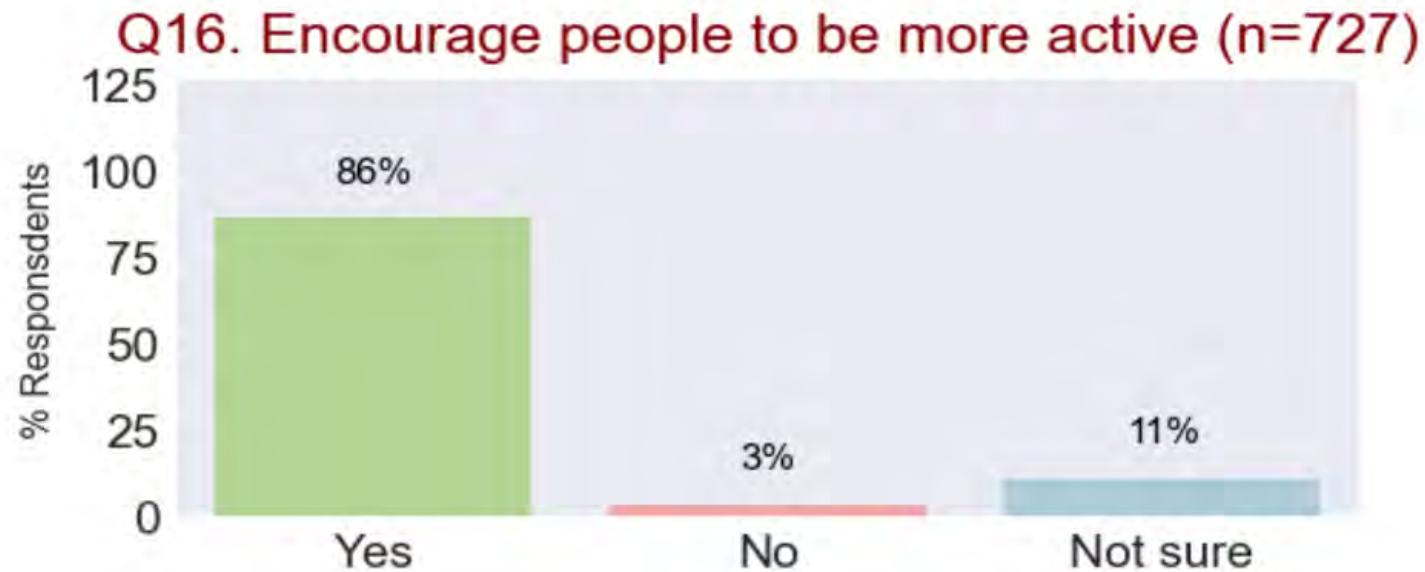


Aspects of Vitality - Agreement

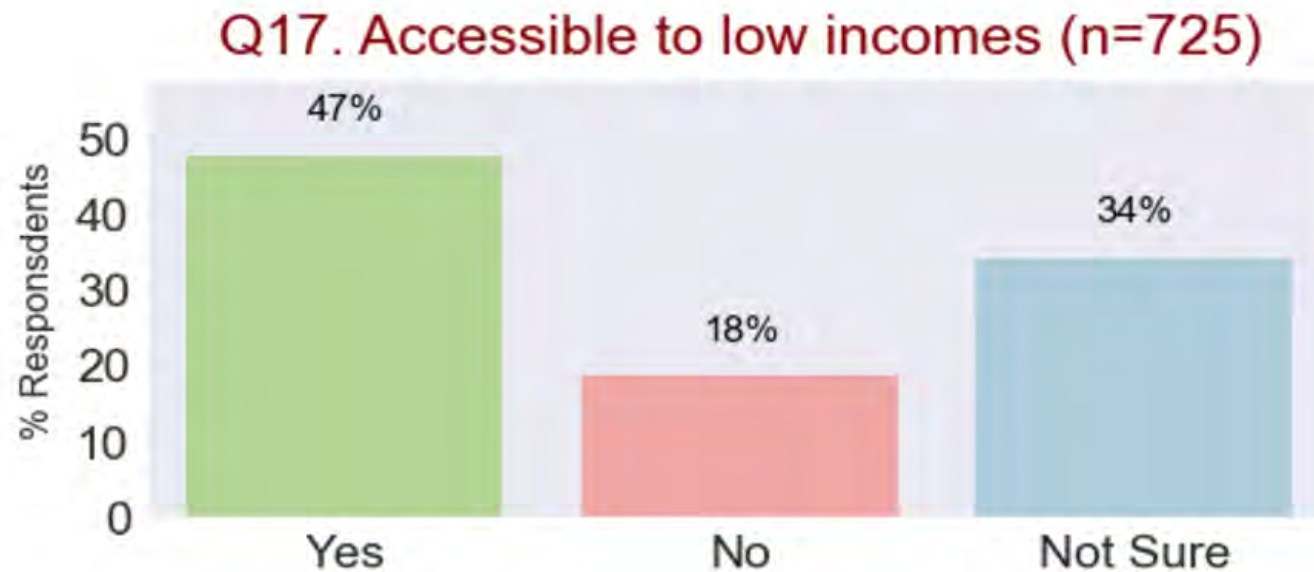
Q24. Level of agreement with aspects of the Vitality Membership Scheme (n=690)



Does the Vitality membership scheme have potential to encourage people to be more active?



Do you think the Vitality Membership package is accessible to those who may be on low incomes?



Non-Members results

Reasons why respondents have not joined Vitality

Q28. Why not joined Vitality Membership Scheme (n=486)



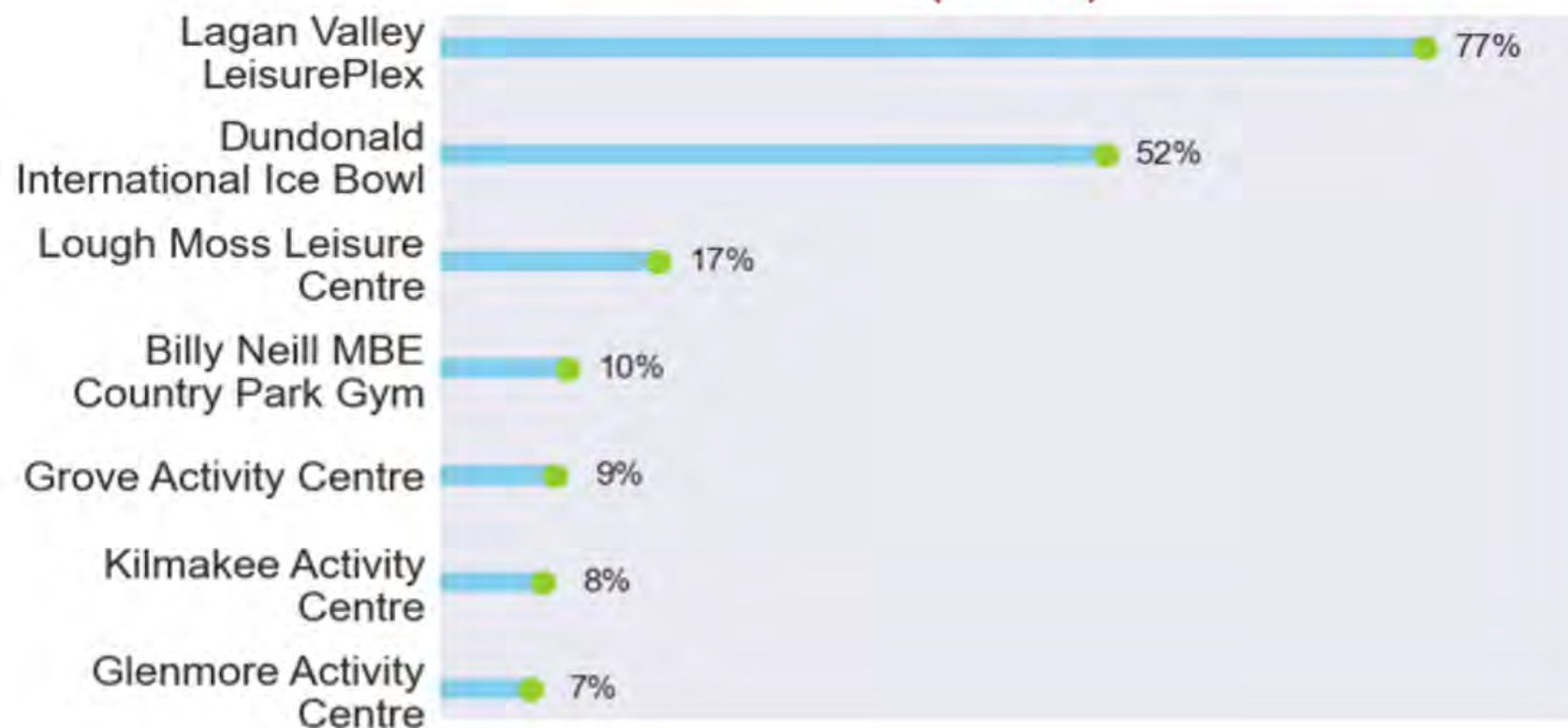
Where respondents usually do physical activity

Q30. Where do you usually do physical activity? (n=482)



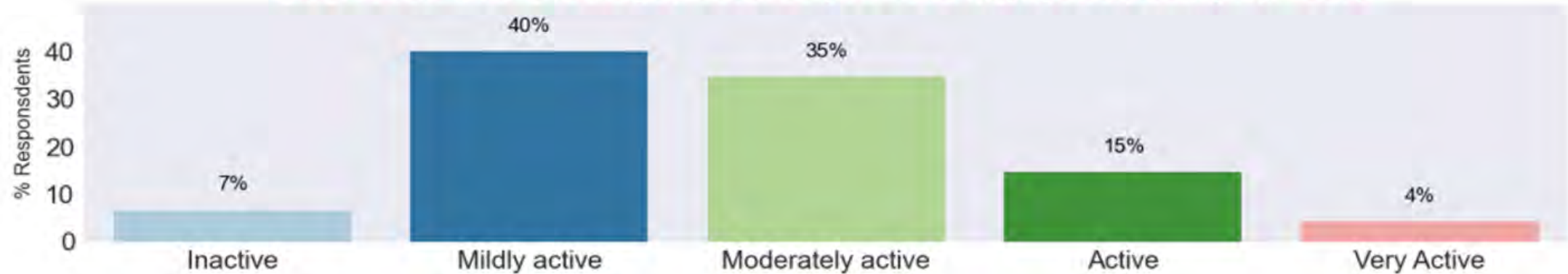
Facilities visited in the last 3 months

Q29. Facilities visited in last 3 months
(n=429)



Level of physical activity?

Q31. Overall how would you describe your level of physical activity? (n=559)



Vitality has potential to make people more active?

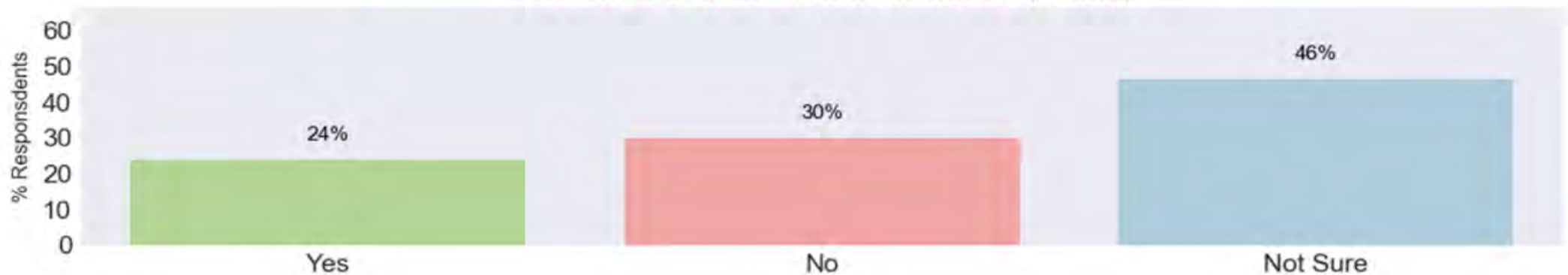
Q32. Do you feel the Vitality Membership package has the potential to encourage more people to be more active? (n=558)



Non-Members

Accessible to low incomes?

Q33. Do you think the Vitality Membership package is accessible to those who may be on low incomes? (n=558)



Vitality Membership Scheme Feedback Survey 2022

289

Here's What We Learned



Some personal comments on impact of participating in the Vitality Membership Scheme.

"I am recovering from ACL surgery so access to the gym and health suite over the last year has helped my recovery. When the kids were younger we were able to bring them to the Slide pool and mission inflatable without worrying about the cost. It was much more affordable and better VFM. Now the kids are a bit older they have much more independence so they have been able to use the gym and pools and courts as and when they want. We have also been able to try lots of new things like ice skating, squash and pickle ball. On the whole it has offered us the opportunity to do more things together as a family and also give us all lots of variety in terms of keeping fit. The health suite is a great way for me to meet up with my friends, catch up and relax."

"After retiring the thing I missed most was the social aspect of being in work i.e. conversing/socialising with different people! Soon after taking out Vitality membership and doing the different classes on offer it wasn't long until I met new friends which filled in the void left after retiring. This is something I value very much for mental well-being."

"I have spent months in front of a computer learning software development and I was getting heavy and unfit and depressed. The Vitality membership has given me and my family a way to be together that benefits our long term health and helps keep us on track for our goals"

"We have found that Vitality has really helped our family spend more quality family time together."

"As a family is has brought us closer, we make sure we do something as a family at least once a week."

"Having reached 67, I had 2 years of being diagnosed with clots in my lungs and felt old really quickly. I was overweight and when I had finished my medical treatment for the clots promised myself to get more active. I had only talked about it but never took any action. Then my son said he had booked himself and me into a swimming session and I nearly died, too old, too fat not the right costume etc etc all the excuses I could think of as to why I shouldn't go. My son was very good and didn't take no for an answer. He helped me in and out of the pool that day and never said anything negative as to how I looked or my old fashioned dress like costume. He kept saying this will start you and it was then I looked up the aqua fit classes and later joined Vitality for easy booking online. I have now lost 2 stone and try to go every week and am looking at other classes I might try."

"I have a job that can be very physically, mentally and emotionally demanding. Having a Vitality Membership allows me to access resources that support me to maintain my physical and mental health. I see using this service as an act of self-care. The benefits of being able to access facilities to be physically active in such a flexible and comprehensive way makes it easier for me to incorporate fitness into my lifestyle."

"We have had a very tough time as a family over the last 2 years. Our Vitality Membership has allowed us to spend time as a family at least once a week, doing something fun and I feel this has been a huge benefit to us and very enjoyable. Without the membership I can't see that we would have done this."

"Weight loss, lost 2.5 stone, enjoy going to Dundonald with my family."

"We initially took out the Vitality Membership as my wife was exploring becoming more active. She was keen to go to a gym where she wouldn't know other people due to a lack of confidence after having our first baby. When we explored the membership we realised how as a family we would have access to so many activities that we would be so much more engaged with each other. Over the past 2 years our family has grown and we now have 3 children. The membership continues to be a vital part of our monthly outgoings and with such a variety of activities we can keep the kids active both physically and socially for a reasonable cost. It has been harder for myself and wife to use the facilities for the gym and classes owing to family life but we definitely see a return to both in time. Other than that we have been absolutely delighted with our membership"



Leisure & Community Development Committee

Confidential

7th February 2023

Confidential Report from:

Head of Parks & Amenities

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Schedule 6 - Access to Information: Exemption Information

- 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular Council holding that information).

When will the report become unrestricted:

Specify when report will become available

Redacted report available

Once minutes ratified and passed at next council call in period

3. Irrigation of the greens has always been carried out manually and the issues:
 - It is a manual operation therefore detracts from other duties
 - It doesn't achieve an even watering pattern – areas can be over watered
 - Equally more water can be applied than necessary which is wasteful
 - Manual watering happens in daylight hours which can impede other activities
 - Watering in direct sunlight can cause evaporation and scorching
4. The automated system will address these issues and:
 - The ability to water using a timer will allow the green to be watered at a consistent even percolation rate through the sward. This in turn will reduce the need for a deeper root structure
 - Having an irrigation system will allow us to add granular fertiliser to the green rather than waiting for the onset of rain which may not occur
5. It is proposed to install automatic irrigation systems in two of the greens to commence during the summer to be fully operational by next season. The greens identified as follows:
 - Dungoyne bowling green
£20,000 has been identified through DEA funding – 77407-9
 - Sir Milne Barbour (Lisnagarvey) bowling green
£20,000 has been identified through DEA funding – 77467-9
6. The bowling green at the Leisureplex has less usage and no further action is recommended at this time, however it will be kept under review
7. The Financial Appraisal was approved by Members of the Leisure Development Committee on 6 September 2022.

Recommendation:

Screening and Impact Assess

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the pro

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?

Option 1

Screen out without mitigation

Option 2

Screen out with mitigation

Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?

Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?

If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered

accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant information and leaving out irrelevant consideration”.

APPENDICES: Appendix 1 [P&A]-CONFIDENTIAL- Automated Irrigation System Evaluation Report

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

If Yes, please insert date:

LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE TENDER REPORT

REPORT FROM: Allister Hamilton Parks Manager (Sports / cemeteries)

DEPARTMENT: Leisure and Community Wellbeing

DATE: 30th January 2023

Procurement and Delivery of Irrigation Equipment Background

Leisure and Community Wellbeing intend on purchasing two new irrigation systems for the bowling greens at Dungoyne bowling green and Sir Milne Barbour (Lisnagarvey bowling green) The irrigation system will help develop the sward on both greens and the irrigation will take place automatically through the early hours of the morning to achieve optimum percolation through the playing surface. Fertilisers and wetting agents will be able to be applied when required rather than being reliant on the hope that rain is imminent.

Procurement Process

Tenders were invited from companies to tender for the equipment required. Following Open Tender procedures, 21 Days were allowed for return of Tenders. The tender competition closed on Friday 27th January 2023 at 12.00 noon. One tender submissions where received by the closing date/time and opened by:

- Ross Gillanders, Head of Parks & Amenities
- Amanda Culbert, Procurement Officer

The tender responses were returned to the Procurement Department recorded, copied and passed to Leisure and Community Wellbeing for evaluation.

Tender Evaluation

The tender was evaluated by Allister Hamilton Parks Manager (Sports / Cemeteries) and Kenneth Gray (Parks Supervisor). **Tender** was evaluated using the agreed criteria and weightings as set out in the issued Tender documents.

The services proposed by each tenderer and the relative Costs were evaluated and scored in order to determine the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) in relation to Quality/Cost. Following public advertisement, The tender was successfully evaluated at a total cost of:-

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Drilling & Pumping Supplies Ltd | £43,593.34 |
|------------------------------------|------------|

Recommendation:

As a result of the evaluation, the panel would recommend the award to the following company –

Drilling & Pumping Supplies Ltd
8-10 Balloo Avenue Bangor

BT19 7QT

Total cost

£43,593.34

Allister Hamilton
Parks Manager (Sports / Cemeteries)

30th January 2023



Leisure & Community Development Committee

Confidential

7th February 2023

Confidential Report from:

Head of Parks & Amenities

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Schedule 6 - Access to Information: Exemption Information

- 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular Council holding that information).

When will the report become unrestricted:

Specify when report will become available

Redacted report available

Once equipment has been procured

3. The Green Composter machine grinds, mulchs and mixes bio-decomowings, roots and soil to ten inch diameter tree loppings, pallet machine is flexible and can mix a range of bio -degradable products volume of material, which is 100% compostable and will be reused Maintained Open Space and Nursery sites.
4. The project would also greatly improve the council's carbon footprint system whereby green waste generated on site has the potential for minimal road haulage.
5. One submission was received, The tender was evaluated at **Ap** and the successful tender was found to be the Most Economical (MEAT). Submission was received from:

King Feeders UK,
Bosley,
Macclesfield,
SK11 0PX

4. Total value of the tender will be £44,800.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members note the tender award for the super composter for use by Parks & Amenities.

Finance and Resource Implications:

- Funded from corporate spend to save initiative.
- A resultant reduction has been made to the revenue budget £18,800 per annum

Option 1Screen out
without mitigation

No

Option 2Screen out with
mitigation

No

Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues, mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been
given to Rural Needs?

No

Has a Rural Needs Impact
Assessment (RNIA) template been
completed?

If no, please give explanation/rationale for why it was not considered:

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed mitigation and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider this decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider this decision in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account the following factors:

LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE TENDER REPORT

REPORT FROM: Stephen Mackle, Parks Manager
DEPARTMENT: Leisure and Community Wellbeing
DATE: 17th January 2023

Procurement: Supply of Tractor Powered Composter Unit

Throughout its Parks, Cemeteries, Playing Fields, Golf Courses and Open Spaces, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is responsible for a wide variety of green waste and horticultural arisings. The Council is now seeking to procure and purchase a tractor powered composter unit which offers a simple, reliable and economic means of green waste recycling.

Procurement Process

Tenders were invited from companies to tender for the goods required. Following Open Tender procedures, 36 Days were allowed for return of Tenders. The tender competition closed on Thursday 12th January 2023 at 12:00 noon. One tender submission was received by the closing date/time and opened by:

- Ross Gillanders, Head of Parks & Amenities
- Andrew Hegan, Procurement Officer

The tender responses were returned to the Procurement Department recorded, copied and passed to Leisure Services and Community Development for evaluation.

Tender Evaluation

All tenders were evaluated by Stephen Mackle (Parks Manager) and James Rodgers (Tree and Woodland Supervisor). **Tenders** were evaluated using the agreed criteria and weightings as set out in the issued Tender documents.

The goods proposed by each tenderer and the relative Costs were evaluated and scored in order to determine the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) in relation to Quality/Cost. Tenders were evaluated over indicative costs at 50% and methodology/quality at 50%.

One tenderer was successfully evaluated at a total cost of:-

King Feeders UK, Total Cost - £44,800: **Score 87%**

Recommendation:

As a result of the evaluation, the panel would recommend the award of the contract: -

Supply of Tractor Powered Composter Unit

King Feeders UK,
Bosley,
Macclesfield,
SK11 0PX

Stephen Mackle
Parks Manager

17th January 2023



Leisure & Community Development Committee

Confidential

7th February 2023

Confidential Report from:

Head of Parks & Amenities

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Schedule 6 - Access to Information: Exemption Information

- 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular Council holding that information).

When will the report become unrestricted:

Specify when report will become available

Redacted report available

Once equipment has been procured

3. The equipment to be replaced are:

Fleet no 364: Kubota F 3680 out front mower year 2009

Fleet no 499: Kubota F 3680 out front mower year 2007

Fleet no288: Kubota G 2160 ride on mower year 2010

Fleet no 537:- Ransomes HR 3300T out front mower year 2009

Fleet no 55:- Ferris Zero turn ride on mower year 2004

Fleet no 368 :- Jacobson AR522 rotary mower year 2009

Fleet no 95:- Ransomes PARKWAY 2250 PLUS triple cylinder r

4. It should be noted that 2 (two) diesel items will be replaced by e which will support the Council's Sustainability Policy and well as park settings, cheaper to run and more environmentally friendly.
5. There will be no increase to the current fleet, as all equipment b of at auction in line with Council policies and procedures.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members approve the tender evaluation to p to replace seven pieces of parks equipment as part of the Annual F and award as follows.

1. Johnston Gilpin & Co,
7b Lisnoe Road,
Lisburn,
BT27 5LT

Lot 1:-2no. Towed Rotary M

2. Laird Grass Machinery Ltd
5s Island Lower Road,
Ballycarry,

Lot 2:- 3no. Heavy Duty Con

Lot 3:- 2no. Electric Powere

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the project?

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?

Option 1

Screen out without mitigation

Option 2

Screen out with mitigation

Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues, mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?

Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?

If no, please give explanation/rationale for why it was not considered

APPENDICES:

Appendix 3 [P&A]-CONFIDENTIAL-Tender

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:



Leisure & Community Development Committee

Confidential

7th February 2023

Confidential Report from:

Director Leisure and Community Wellbeing

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Schedule 6 - Access to Information: Exemption Information

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

When will the report become unrestricted:

Specify when report will become available

When the full programme details are available.

Redacted report available

Never

Item for Decision

TITLE: Department for Communities Financial Assistance

Background and Key Issues:

Background

1. Correspondence has been received from the Department of Communities (DfC) as attached as Appendix 1.
2. The correspondence outlines that funding for a hardship scheme, for this financial year 2022/23, has become available 'to allow Councils to provide financial support to the most vulnerable'.

3. DfC has requested that in order to ensure that the funding reaches those most vulnerable across the Council area, a proposal must be submitted to the Department by the 10th February 2023 outlining how such a scheme would operate.

Key Issues

4. At the time of writing, there are a number of unknowns with regards to the financial assistance, such as what constitutes those most vulnerable, the amount of funds available, timeframe for spend, the overall objectives and terms and conditions of grant.
5. Officers are seeking additional information from DfC, however, the limited information disseminated to Councils does present some risk. When obtaining further information clarity will be sought with regards to linkages with the Department for Finance around support for businesses, existing models for financial support to those most vulnerable and views from an audit perspective.
6. The Council does not currently deliver such a scheme that has processes in place to assess those most vulnerable and administer grants to individuals. The Council previously administered a hardship funding scheme to the value of approximately £105k. The scheme was developed in recognition of the difficult financial circumstances which currently exist in the community and voluntary sector, especially in respect of covering basic overheads which have increased substantially in cost.
7. If such a scheme were to operate, it would be recommended that an open call would be established for organisation/s who have robust assessment mechanisms already in place to assess those most vulnerable, or alternatively a similar call be progressed as to the hardship funding scheme. This will depend on what further information is presented from DfC.
8. Continued engagement is required with the Department, in conjunction with Councils finance team to ensure all processes are followed correctly as the Department requires confirmation that the Council has the remit to be able to make such payments.
9. Given the timeframe, Members may wish to consider that delegated authority is granted to the Chair and Vice Chair of this committee to submit a proposal to the Department, for consideration, to meet the deadline of 10th of February 2022.
10. As the funding is for this financial year further delegated authority is sought to ensure the programme, if viable can be delivered in year. Should any of the further information being sought, present any risks to Council this would be made available for Members consideration.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

1. Officers continue to engage with the Department for Communities to obtain further information on the scheme;

- 2. Given that the deadline for submissions is 10th February, that the Council, at its meeting on 28th February, be requested to approve the granting of delegated authority retrospectively to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to approve any advanced submission or proposal to the Department for Communities prior to the date specified; and that
- 3. That a request that further delegated authority be granted by the Council to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Committee to approve the outcome of the funding programme to achieve in year spend, should the programme be viable.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Further clarification being sought from the Department for Communities

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy? To be determined

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	Yes/No	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	Yes/No	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	Yes/No
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?

Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?

If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

If Yes, please insert date:

From: Local Government Policy Division, Finance [<mailto:LGPDFinance@communities-ni.gov.uk>]
Sent: 01 February 2023 13:21
ToSubject: DfC Hardship Fund 2022/2023 - Issued to Councils
Importance: High

Chief Executives/Finance Officers,

At the Finance Working Group meeting on 8 December 2022, I asked councils if central government funding for a hardship fund became available, would councils be able to put in place schemes to provide financial support to the most vulnerable in their council area.

I have now been informed that funding for a hardship scheme to allow councils to provide financial support to the most vulnerable will be available this financial year. The exact quantum of the hardship fund has still to be finalised.

Can you let me know how your council would ensure that the funding is distributed to the most vulnerable in your council area, in this financial year, by providing me with an outline of how any scheme would operate by no later than 10 February 2023.

Any Council availing of a hardship scheme will also need to confirm that it has the remit to be able to make such payments.

Thanks

Jeff Glass

Jeff Glass | Local Government & Housing Regulation Division | Department for Communities
Working from Home
Contact: ✉ jeff.glass@communities-ni.gov.uk | ☎ Tel: (028) 9082 3375 | 📠 DD: 39375

Supporting people, Building communities, Shaping places